



# Birds of Montana

## Montana Field Guide

### Note

These PDF versions of the Montana Field Guide are intended to assist in offline identification and field work. They are not intended to replace the live Field Guide, as that version contains more information and is updated daily.

This PDF was generated 9/10/2012

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# Alder Flycatcher - *Empidonax alnorum*



## Species of Concern

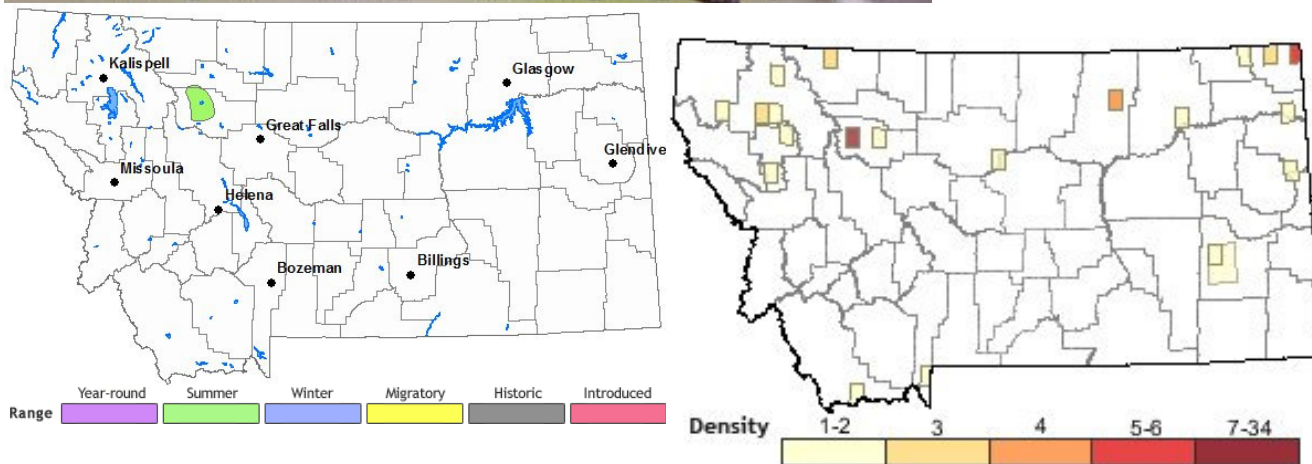
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 69

## General Description

Although large in the *Empidonax* genus, the Alder Flycatcher is a small species within the flycatcher family. Thirteen to seventeen centimeters in length, with a wingspan of approximately 21 cm, the Alder Flycatcher has dull greenish-olive upperparts with a similarly colored, but darker, crown. The eye-ring is narrow, whitish, and sometimes indistinct but rarely lacking, while the throat is clearly white and contrasts with a gray breast band. The bill is black on the upper mandible and dull yellow-orange or pinkish on the lower. The wings are darker than the back, have white-edged tertials (innermost secondaries) and wing-bars that are whitish and boldly marked (Lowther 1999).

The vocalization of the Alder Flycatcher is a harsh and burry, three syllable "rreeBEEa" or "tee-BEE-o" (Lowther 1999, Sibley 2000). For a more complete description, see below on distinguishing between the vocalizations of the Alder and Willow (*E. trailii*) flycatchers.

## Habitat

Habitat use is similar to that of the Willow Flycatcher and includes willow (*Salix*) thickets, red osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), or birch (*Betula* sp.) along the edges of wetlands, streams, lakes, and forests (Johnsgard 1986).

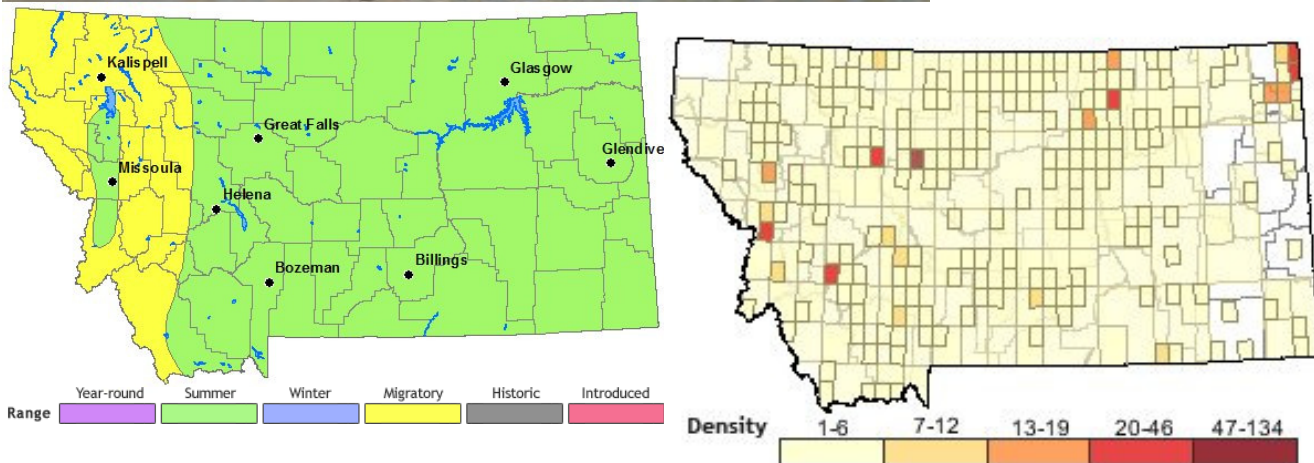


# American Avocet - *Recurvirostra americana*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1493

## General Description

A large slender shorebird with a long, slender, recurved bill (longer and straighter in males than in females), long spindly legs, and a long neck; wings and back are boldly patterned with black and white; belly and flanks are white; head and neck and rusty in breeding plumage, gray in basic plumage; juveniles have a cinnamon wash on the head and neck; average length 46 cm.

## Habitat

During the breeding season, they are found in marshes, ponds, mud flats, and alkaline lakes. During migration, American Avocets are found in salt marshes or lagoons with muddy shorelines. They winter in thick, silted tidal flats and areas of intertidal mudflats.

# American Bittern - *Botaurus lentiginosus*



## Species of Concern

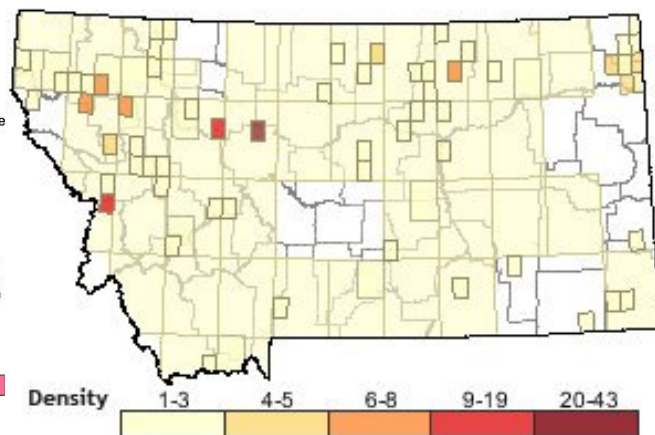
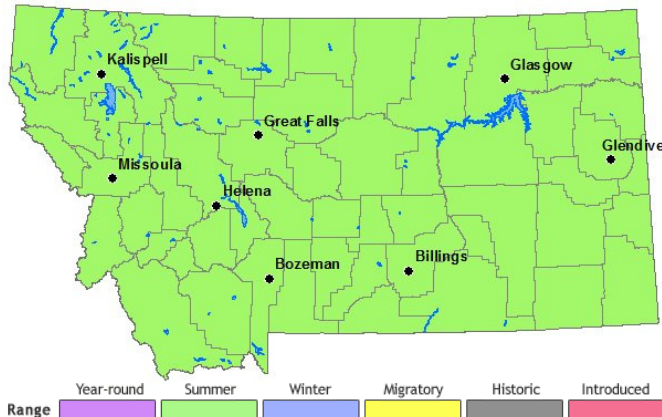
**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 269

## General Description

A stocky wading bird with a straight pointed bill, relatively short neck and legs, and somewhat pointed wings; darker flight feathers; bill dull yellow with a dusky tip on the upper mandible; legs and feet are greenish yellow; breeding feathering includes generally inconspicuous white ruffs on the shoulders and two small green patches on the back; wing span 107 cm. American Bittern is a brown, medium-sized heron, 60-85 cm long, with a stout body and neck and relatively short legs (Palmer 1962, Cramp 1977, Hancock and Kushlan 1984). Adult plumage is all brown above and finely flecked with black; heavily streaked with brown and white below. The crown is rusty-brown. An elongated, black patch extends from below the eye down the side of the neck, a characteristic unique among herons (Hancock and Kushlan 1984). The throat is white. Sexes are similar, except that the male is slightly larger (Gibbs et al. 1992). Juveniles differ only in lacking black neck patches, which are obtained in the first winter. Plumage does not change seasonally.

## Habitat

American Bitterns favor large freshwater wetlands with tall emergent vegetation such as cattails and bulrushes. Sparsely vegetated wetlands are occupied occasionally, tidal marshes rarely. The typical nest is a platform of dried rushes, sedges, and cattails placed in dense emergent vegetation over shallow water (Gibbs et al. 1992). Bitterns

forage along shorelines, in dense marsh vegetation, and in wet meadows. Winter range include areas where temperatures stay above freezing and waters remain open. Managed wetlands, such as those at wildlife refuges, are often used.

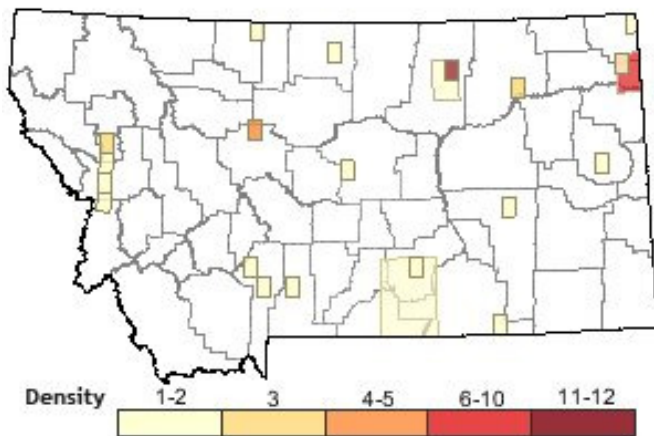
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# American Black Duck - *Anas rubripes*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 54

## General Description

Males have dark blackish-brownish body feathers with a lighter grayish head, finely streaked neck and olive-colored beak; feet are reddish orange. Female American Black Ducks look similar, but are lighter in color than males. American Black Duck plumage is similar to that of Mallards, however, they lack the bright green head and neck breeding plumage of Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*).

## Habitat

During the breeding season, American Black Ducks nest in wooded swamps, shallow lakes, and wooded wetlands, including beaver ponds and altered wetlands. Migrant American Black Ducks use tidal flats, lakes, ponds, and reservoirs as stopover habitat. Individuals winter in flooded timber, emergent wetlands, and saltmarshes.

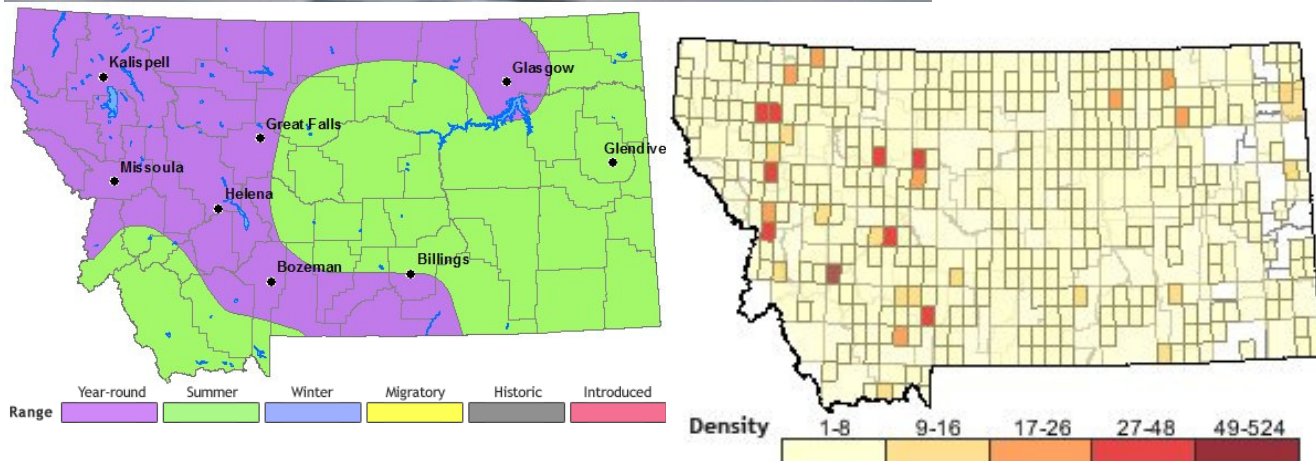


# American Coot - *Fulica americana*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2886

## General Description

A dark hen-like bird with a blackish head and neck, slate body (paler in juveniles), and a frontal shield that usually is small and maroon or dark brown (may become bulbous at peak of breeding season; a few have a white frontal shield); undertail coverts white on the sides, black in the middle; white trailing edge on wings; whitish bill; large feet with lobed toes. An awkward and often clumsy flier, the American Coot requires long running takeoffs across the water's surface to become airborne (Brisbin and Mowbray 2002).

## Habitat

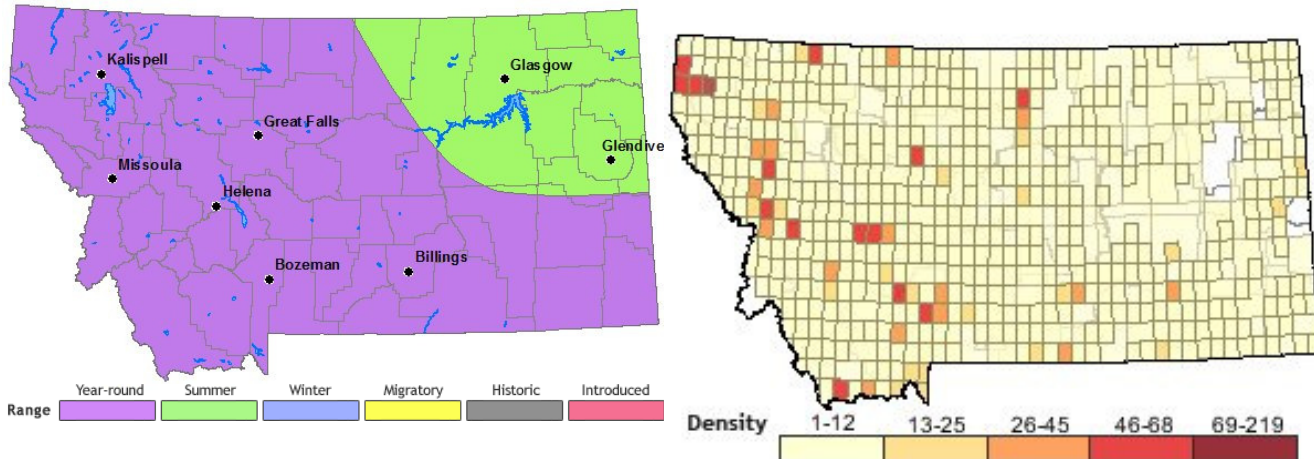
Summer birds prefer marshy borders of ponds (Skaar 1969). The American Coot may be found in almost any of a broad variety of wetlands, including freshwater lakes, ponds, marshes, roadside ditches, and industrial-waste impoundments, as well as in coastal marine habitats. Two features generally characterize all bodies of water where coots breed: (1) heavy stands of emergent aquatic vegetation along at least some portion of the shoreline; and (2) at least some depth of standing water within those stands of vegetation (Brisbin and Mowbray 2002).

# American Crow - *Corvus brachyrhynchos*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 5724

## General Description

Similar in appearance to the Northwestern Crow, this species is larger, has a higher-pitched voice, and is less social during the breeding season. Medium sized 43-53 cm, 316-575 g. All black. Adults (greater than 15 months) with feathers glossed violet; stout, glossy black bill; nares covered with stiff bristle-like feathers; and brown iris. Tips of folded wings do not reach tip of tail at rest. Tail slightly rounded. Sexes alike except male slightly larger than female. (Verbeek and Caffrey 2002).

## Habitat

One of the most widespread of North American birds. Found in a wide variety of habitats, particularly in open landscapes, with scattered trees and small woodlots. Uses both natural habitats and those created by humans (logged, areas, agricultural fields, cities, and villages). Generally avoids large areas of forest (Verbeek and Caffrey 2002).

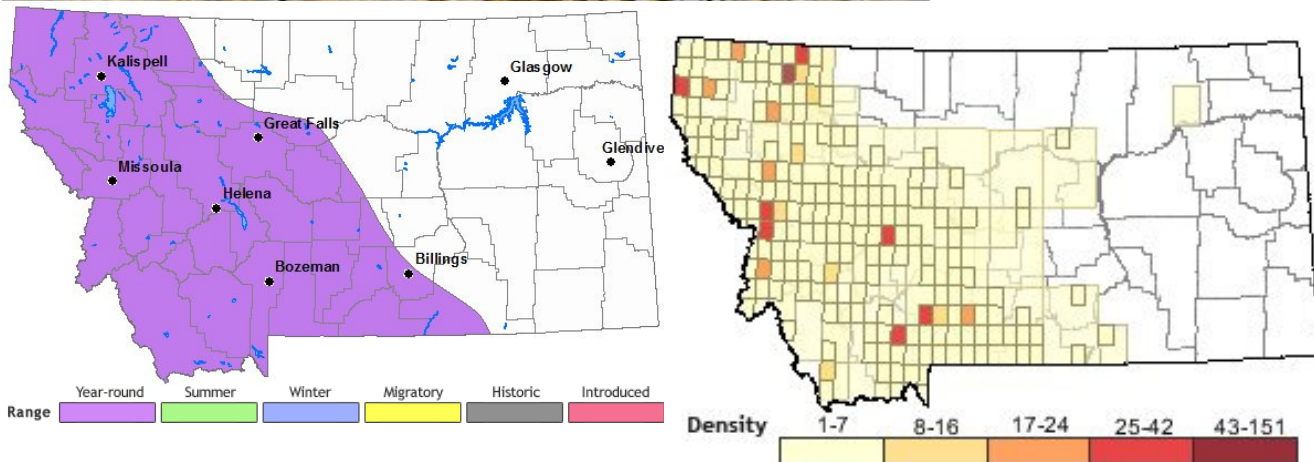


## American Dipper - *Cinclus mexicanus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1547

### General Description

Stout passerine 14-20 cm long. Males have neutral gray body. Females similar in look, but smaller in size.

### Habitat

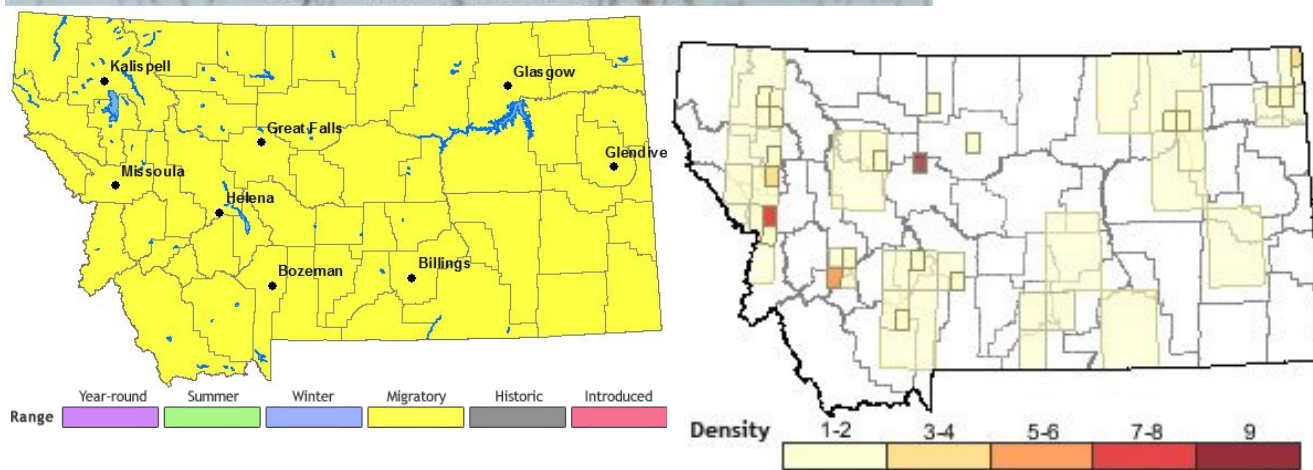
Same habitat used year round. Prefers fast-moving, clear streams along with waterfalls. Species prefers sand, pebble, or rocky stream bottoms, which provide sufficient aquatic invertebrates. Shorelines with large boulders, fallen trees, and rubble provide good shelter and protection from predators.

# American Golden-Plover - *Pluvialis dominica*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 89

## General Description

Species very similar to Pacific Golden-Plover; different in size. Head, neck, and upper breast grayish color. Obvious sexual dimorphism in most American Golden-Plovers. In males, white stripe on neck terminates on upper breast; black flanks. Males have white and yellow spots on back. Females less colorful, less mottled and darker.

## Habitat

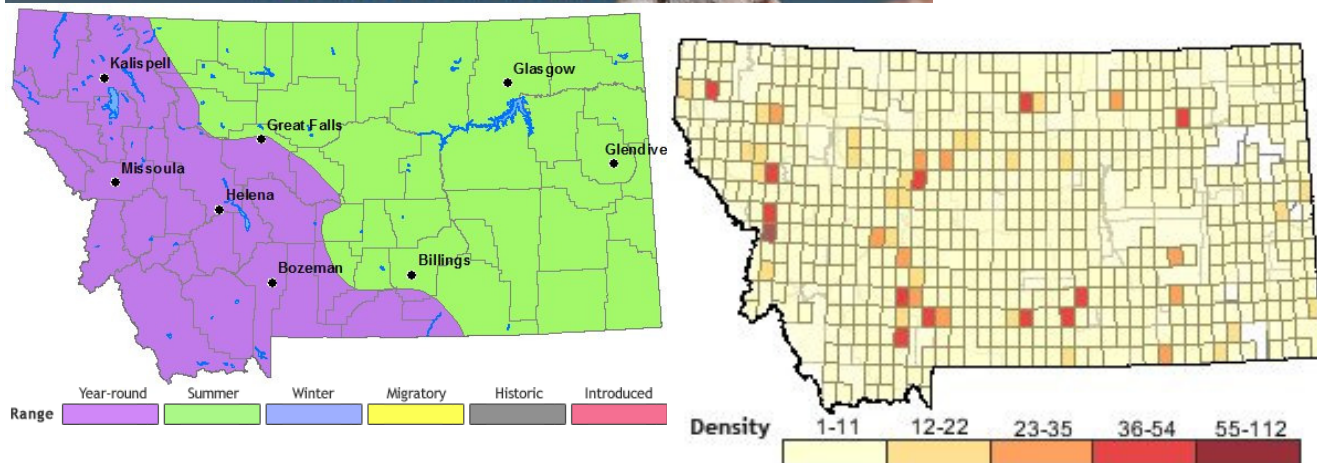
Migrants are usually found along lakes or reservoirs or on agricultural lands, often on plowed or recently burned fields (Johnsgard 1986).

# American Goldfinch - *Spinus tristis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 4271

## General Description

Small, 11.4 to 12.8 cm. Sexually and seasonally dimorphic. Male breeding plumage: lemon yellow; forehead, crown, and lores black; wings jet black, white tips worn; wing coverts yellow with greater coverts white tipped; tail black, white on inner webs; bill orange. Female breeding plumage is a "brighter" version of the basic plumage. Basic plumage: olive brown above, olive yellow below, shading to buff on sides and flanks; males have brighter yellow throats, jet black flight feathers, yellow or olive yellow lesser coverts, black greater coverts, tipped white; females have blackish brown flight feathers, olive lesser coverts, blackish greater coverts tipped white or buff. Both sexes are frequently misidentified in their muted winter plumages (Middleton 1993).

## Habitat

Widely distributed in temperate North America. Common in weedy fields, river flood plains, early second growth forest, and also cultivated lands, roadsides, orchards, and gardens (Middleton 1993).

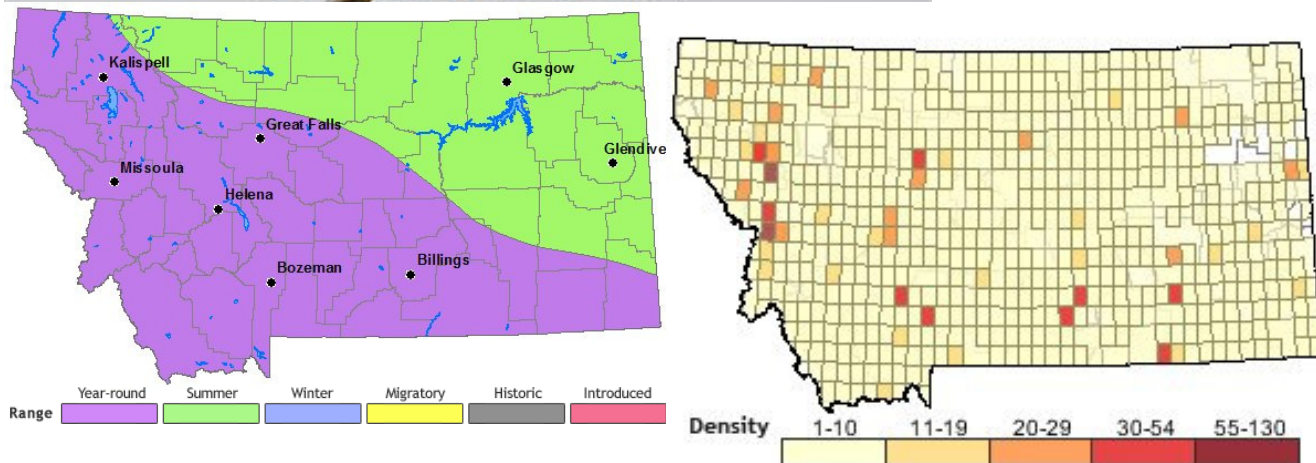


# American Kestrel - *Falco sparverius*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 4364

## General Description

Adult males are slate-blue on their wings and the crown of their heads. The back is rufous with distinct dark brown horizontal barring. The tail is uniformly rufous with a black band on the end. The breast is buff to cream with light vertical streaking. The female is uniformly rufous on the back and wings with dark brown horizontal banding. The tail is similarly marked. The breast is buff with heavy rufous streaking. Both sexes have a dark vertical stripe below, in front of, and behind the eye, with an additional dark stripe farther back on the head. Juvenile males differ from adults in having a more heavily marked breast and brown-tipped feathers. Juvenile females are identical to adult females. American kestrels range from nine to 12 inches in length and have a wingspan of 20 to 24 inches. Pointed wings, reddish back and tail, two black stripes on each side of white sides of head; male has blue-gray wings; averages 27 cm long, 58 cm in wingspan.

## Habitat

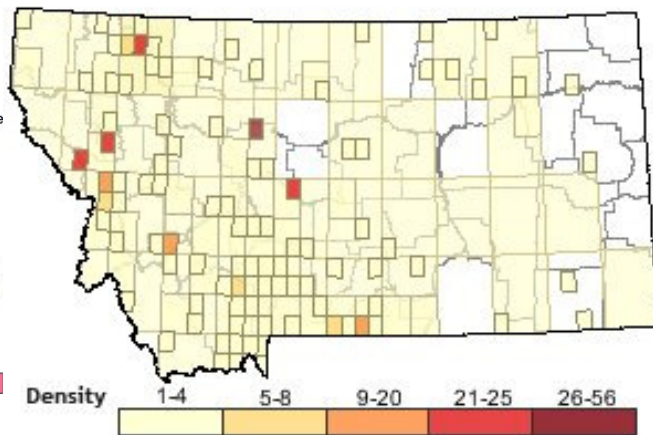
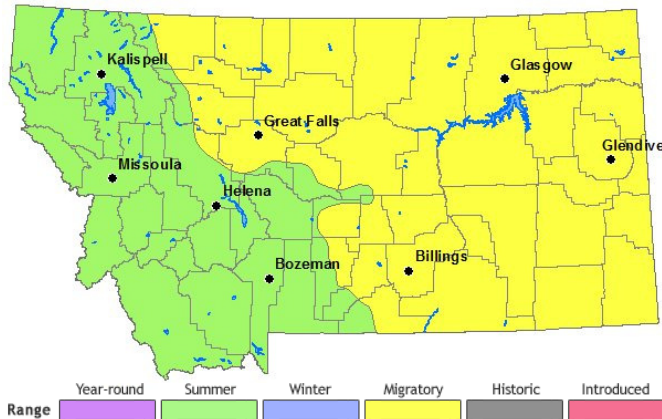
American Kestrels are found in nearly all habitats in Montana. Nests are often located in cavities in trees, banks, cliffs, and buildings. They also use man-made nest boxes. They usually hunt in open habitat. American Kestrels often perch on overhead wires or posts while looking for prey, or hover in midair. In Bozeman area, summer birds are concentrated in the valley, but some birds are found far up mountain canyons (Skaar 1969); wintering birds tend to frequent irrigated areas (Skaar 1969).

# American Pipit - *Anthus rubescens*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 593

## General Description

Small, 15 to 17 cm, slender. Males slightly larger and heavier than females. Not separated by plumage. Bill short, slender, straight. Bobbing tail with white edge to outer tail feathers. Compare with Sprague's Pipit (the sides of the head and indistinct buffy eye-rings are pale. The lores contrast with dark brown eyes and the ear coverts are plain brownish-buff, usually with a slight reddish tinge. The crown, sides and rear of neck are buffy with sharply defined black streaks. The back is light sandy-brown with broad black streaks, with a paler more prominent buffy stripe down each side. The wings, 7.7 to 8.5 cm long, have blackish-brown feathers with whitish to buffy-brown edging, and two whitish wing bars. The rump and upper tail coverts, paler than the back, are sandy-brown with narrow black streaks (Robbins and Dale 1999). However, Sprague's Pipit has a shorter tail with more white in outer rectrices, more strongly marked upperparts, and paler face without the dark auricular patch of the American Pipit (Verbeek and Hendricks 1994).

## Habitat

In the Beartooth Mountains, nest sites required snow-free areas, tussocks, tilted rocks and eroded areas nearby (Verbeek 1965). Ground inhabiting songbird of generally sparsely vegetated, open habitat (Verbeek and Hendricks 1994).

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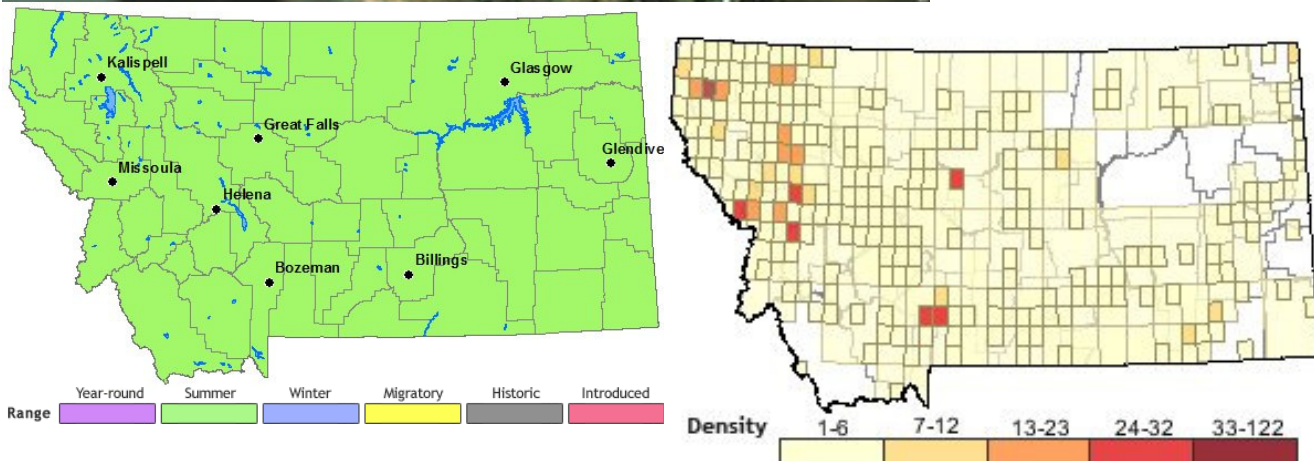


# American Redstart - *Setophaga ruticilla*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1560

## General Description

Length is 13 cm. Male is glossy black with bright orange patches on the sides, wings, and tail; belly and undertail coverts are white. Female is gray-olive above, white below with yellow patches. Immature resembles female. By first fall, young male's patches show some salmon; by first spring, breast has some black spotting; full adult male plumage is acquired by second late summer. Often fans tail and spreads wings when perched, making the colorful patches conspicuous. **VOCALIZATIONS:** Variable song, a series of high, thin notes usually followed by a wheezy, downslurred note. **NEST:** a firm, compactly woven cup of plant down, bark fibers, small rootlets, grass stems; lined with fine grasses, weed stems, hair, sometimes feathers; decorated on outside with lichens, birch bark, bud scales, plant down; bound with spider silk; built entirely by the female, typically requiring 1 week or more (but sometimes less than this). Outside diameter 2.75 in (7 cm), height 3 in (7.6 cm); inside diameter 1.75 in (4.4 cm), depth 1.5 in (3.8 cm). **EGGS:** Average size 16.2 x 12.3 mm. Oval to short-oval. Shell smooth, has slight gloss. White, grayish white, creamy white, greenish white; dotted, spotted, blotched with reddish-browns, grays; often concentrated at large end.

## Habitat

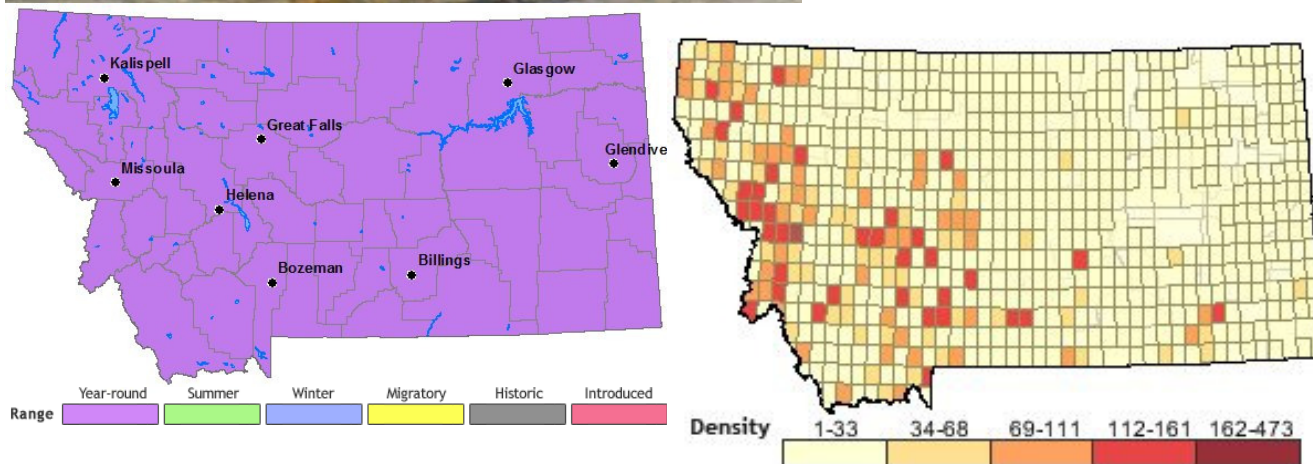
Species prefers second growth, deciduous woodlands usually near water. Often found in shrubby areas, along with alder and willow thickets.

# American Robin - *Turdus migratorius*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 29364

## General Description

The largest thrush in North America. Overall length 25 cm, average body mass 77 g. Male has deep grayish to dark-brown upperparts with blackish head, white crescents above and below eye, rich reddish underparts with white throat streaked with black and white undertail-coverts. Bill is yellow. Female is similar but paler overall (Sallabanks et al. 1999).

## Habitat

Most widespread North American thrush. Frequents forest, woodland, and gardens, breeding primarily where lawns and other short-grass areas are interspersed with shrubs and trees, such as residential areas, towns, farmyards, and parks (Sallabanks and James 1999).

# American Scoter - *Melanitta americana*



**Accidental Species**

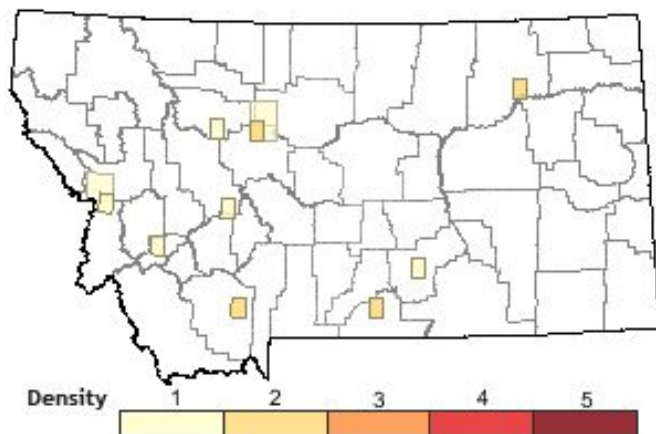
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 15

## Habitat

Black Scoters are likely to be seen on large rivers, lakes or reservoirs.

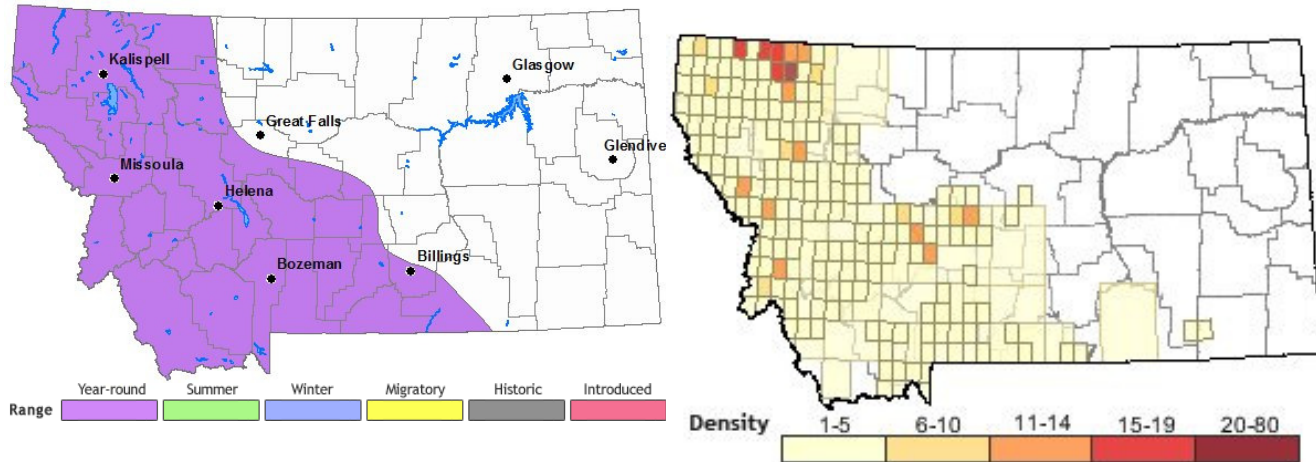


# American Three-toed Woodpecker - *Picoides dorsalis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 1051

## General Description

The adult male has a yellow crown, black forehead that is more or less spotted with dull white, black back and sides that are usually broadly barred with white, secondary feathers that are distinctly spotted with white and quills with white spots (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959). The adult female is similar to the adult male but without any yellow on the head. The female's forehead and crown is usually spotted or streaked with grayish-white but sometimes is completely black. Immatures are similar to adults. Young woodpeckers are naked and blind when hatched (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959).

American Three-toed Woodpeckers make tapping sounds while feeding. In the spring and summer you can hear courtship drumming. The call is a rattle similar to that of the Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) (Adams, pers. comm.) although the intervals between taps are longer at the beginning of calling episodes. The voice consists of a squeal resembling that of a small mammal and a short "quap" or "quip" (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959).

## Habitat

Nesting habitat includes coniferous forests (with spruce, larch, or fir trees), or logged areas and swamps. A cavity

nest is dug by both sexes and is placed 1.5 to 15 meters (5 to 50 feet) high in a stump or other dead or dying trees, often near water. The entrance is about 4 centimeters by 5 centimeters (1 3/4 by 2 inches), and the cavity is about 25 to 38 centimeters (10 to 15 inches) deep (Oatman 1985). The eggs lie on beds of chips within the nest and are ovate, pure white, and only moderately glossy (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959).

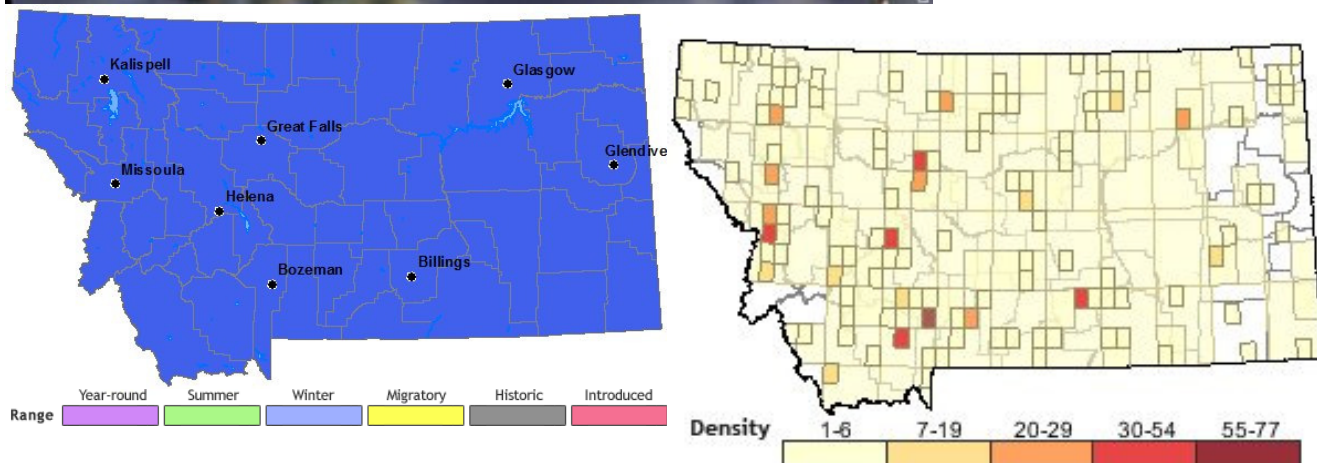
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# American Tree Sparrow - *Spizella arborea*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1257

## General Description

Small species, sexually monomorphic. Grayish underside with a back streaked with black, cream, and brown.

## Habitat

Found near tree lines, or open areas with scattered trees. Commonly winters in neighborhood gardens and feeders.



# American White Pelican - *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*



## Species of Concern

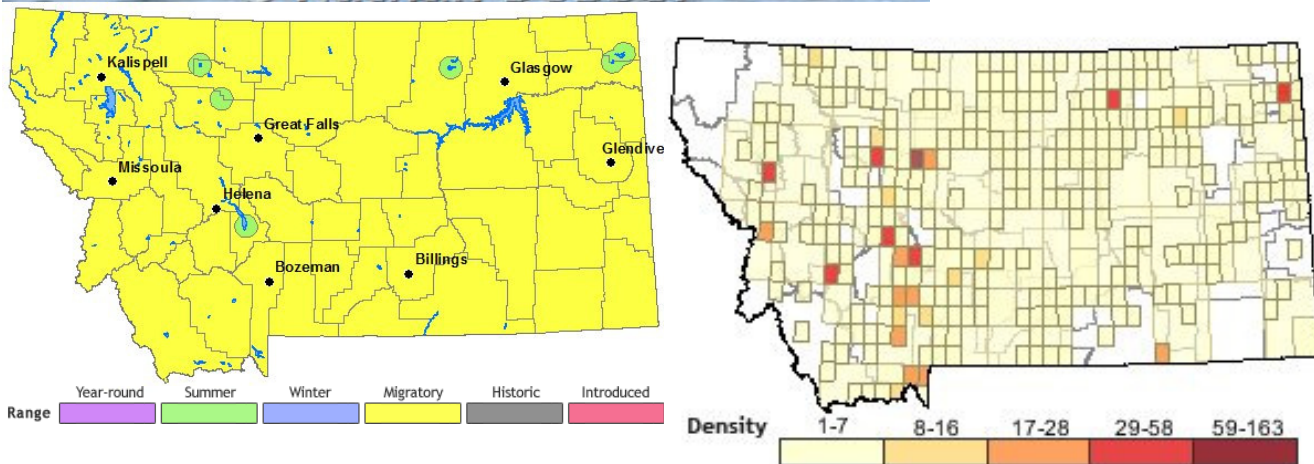
**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2091

## General Description

The American White Pelican is a large, white bird (length: 127 to 165 cm; weight: most birds 5.0 to 9.0 kg; wingspan: 2.4 to 2.9 m) with black primaries and outer secondaries, an enormous bill with distensible gular pouch, and totipalmate webbed feet. It is often seen in flocks, and when in flight it flies with the head withdrawn. In the early breeding season the bill and legs are bright orange, the head has white plumes, and there is a laterally flattened horn on the upper mandible. Later the leg color fades, the head darkens, and the plumes and horn are lost (Evans and Knopf 1993).

## Habitat

Habitat use in Montana appears similar to other areas within the breeding range. American White Pelicans occur on a variety of aquatic and wetland habitats, including rivers, lakes, reservoirs (both large and small), estuaries, bays, marshes, and sometimes in inshore marine habitats. These habitats are used variously for nesting, loafing, and feeding. They rest on islands and peninsulas, as well as exposed rocks in rivers. Nesting colonies usually are situated on islands or peninsulas in brackish or freshwater lakes, where they are isolated from mammalian predators. Nests are built on the ground in slight depressions or on mounds of earth and debris, usually on low, flat, or gently sloping terrain. They may use dredge spoil or natural islands. Usually nests are built in an open area, but often near vegetation, driftwood, or large rocks (Spendelov and Patton 1988). There is increasing concentration and feeding at catfish aquaculture operations during the non-breeding season (King and Grewe 2001).

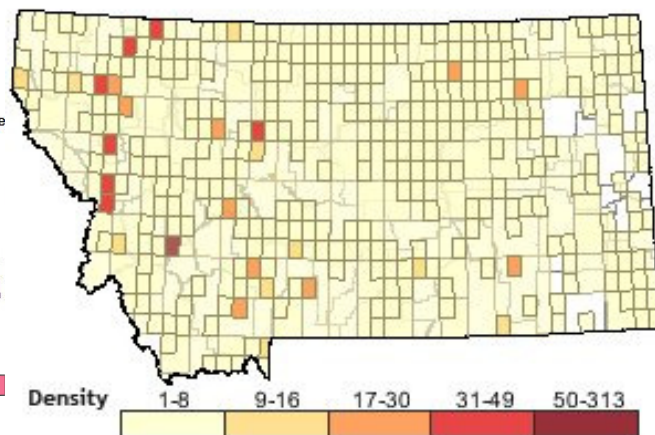
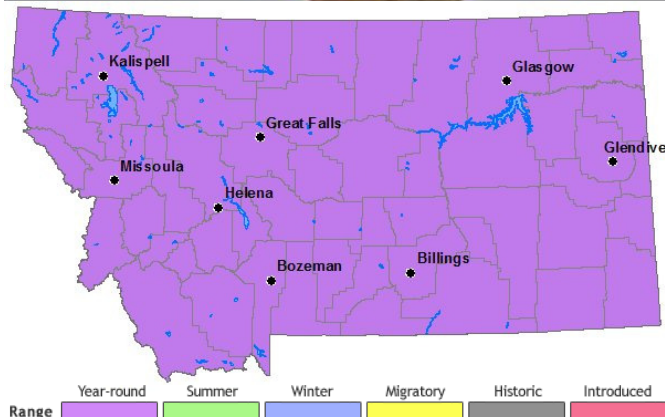
Montana breeding colonies are located in the eastern prairie regions on islands or peninsulas of low topographic relief at lakes and reservoirs. Cover at some colonies is minimal, with nests mostly or completely exposed, but nests are often under extensive stands of chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) in the main sub-colony at Medicine Lake (E. Madden and M. Restani personal communication). Feeding occurs near the colony as well as at remote locations (> 100 km) away from the colony in reservoirs, lakes, and along rivers.

# American Wigeon - *Anas americana*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2730

## General Description

Commonly known as the "Baldpate". Adult male: forehead and crown white; broad dark green patch surrounding eye passing to nape; rest of head and upper neck buffy white, heavily speckled with black; breast, sides, and flanks pinkish brown contrasting with white belly and sides of rump, scapulars and back pinkish brown. Bill bluish gray with black tip. Adult female: crown brownish black, streaked with creamy white; rest of head and upper neck whitish with dusky streaking; back and scapulars grayish brown; breast, sides, and flanks pale reddish brown contrasting with white belly. Bill grayish with black tip. (Mowbray 1999).

## Habitat

Breeds near shallow, freshwater wetlands: sloughs, ponds, small lakes, marshes, and rivers. For nesting prefers areas with upland cover of brush/grass vegetation in the vicinity of lakes or marshy sloughs. (Mowbray 1999). Comments on habitat use are in Holm 1984. In the Bozeman area, they prefer lakes and ponds, except in winter when they prefer open streams (Skaar 1969).

# American Woodcock - *Scolopax minor*



**Accidental Species**

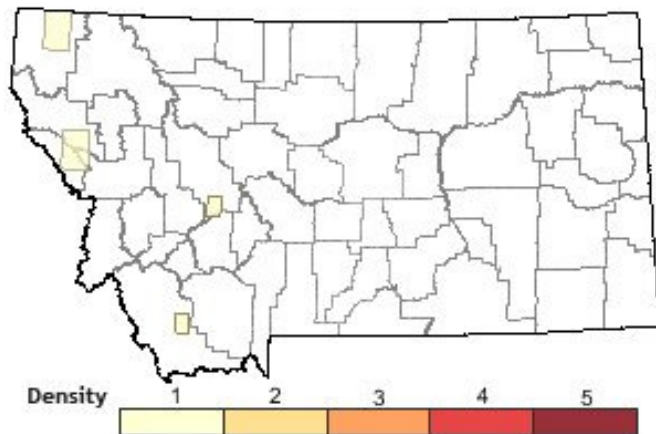
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 4

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# Ancient Murrelet - *Synthliboramphus antiquus*



**Accidental Species**

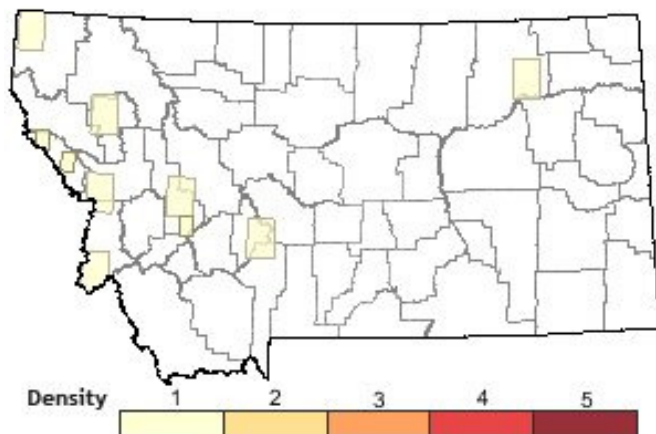
**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 10

## General Description

Slender auk with legs set further back on body. Short, yellow-tipped bill. Breeding adult: back, upper wing and upper tail coverts gray; head and throat black; rest of underparts white. Non-breeding adult lacks black on throat. Males and females similar in appearance.

## Habitat

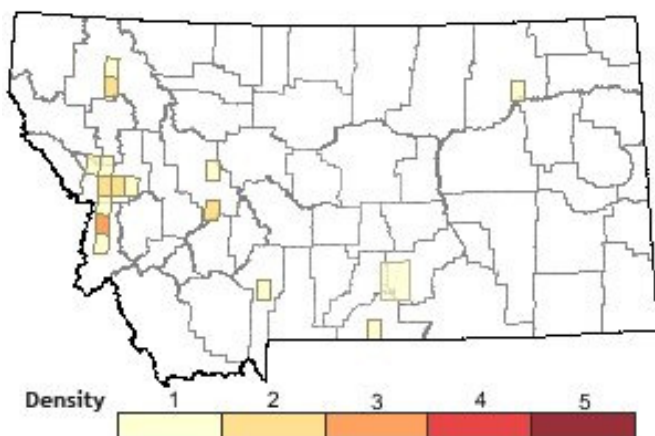
Species found mainly in island environments, similar to the puffin. Prefers coastlines and continental shelves.

## Anna's Hummingbird - *Calypte anna*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 22

### General Description

Medium-sized hummingbird, iridescent bronzy green top side; grayish below, with dark tails. Adult males (and some young males) have both a rose gorget and crown, unlike any other North American hummingbird. Adult females may have few rose gorget feathers, but usually lack color on the crown.

### Habitat

Nests often found in oak trees, along with vine, brush and human-built structures. Nests built in February; nests only used once. Materials reused in completion of second nest.



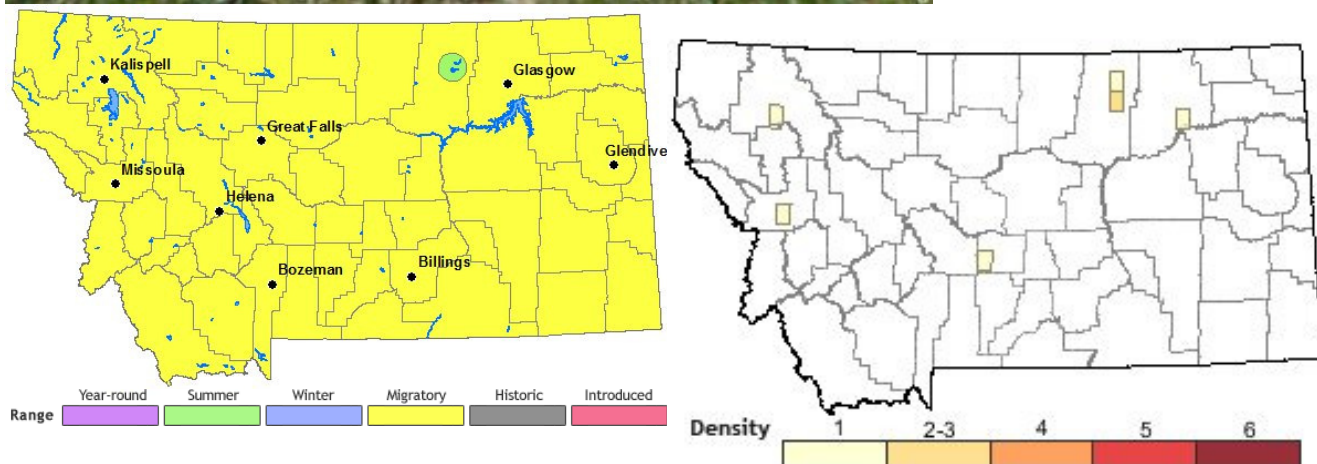
# Arctic Tern - *Sterna paradisaea*



**Accidental Species**

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 8

## General Description

Species monomorphic. Pale gray upper wing and mantle; white rump and dark gray tail. Black cap well defined with orange bill.

## Habitat

Nests built in desolate terrain, usually in areas of small or no vegetation. Commonly nests near water on rocky or sandy islands. During migration periods, found out to sea or along coastlines. Non-breeding times spent along ice shelves and icebergs in Antarctica.



# Ash-throated Flycatcher - *Myiarchus cinerascens*



**Accidental Species**

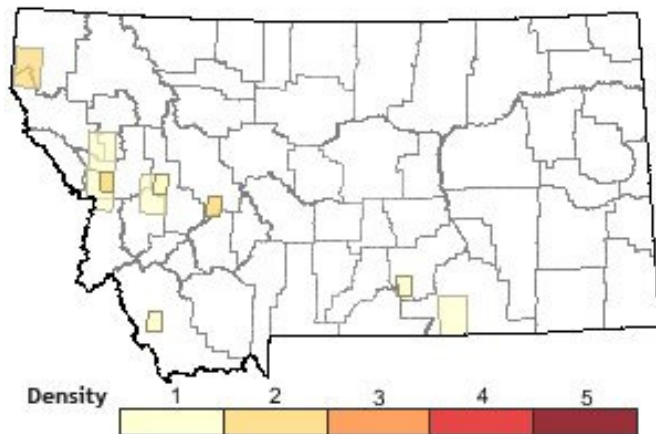
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 13

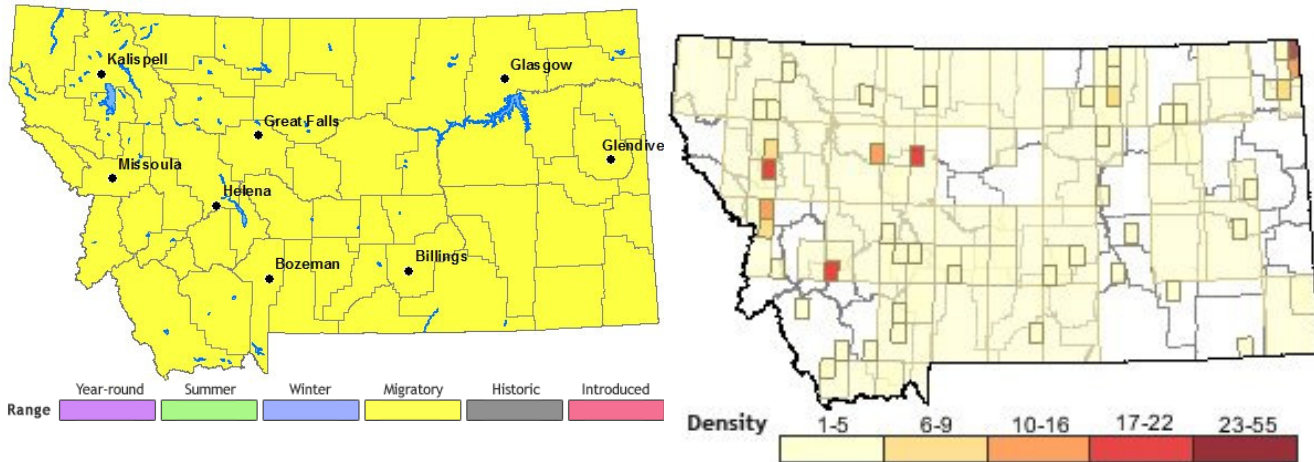
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# Baird's Sandpiper - *Calidris bairdii*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 402

## General Description

Summer plumage is black-brown coloration of crown, nape, mantle, and scapulars. White to tan belly with short, olive colored legs. Coverts sepia colored with black stripe on the underwing coverts.

## Habitat

Migrants are associated with wet meadows and shallow ponds, often feeding in grassy areas somewhat away from water, but also along muddy shorelines. They also use somewhat alkaline ponds (Johnsgard 1986).

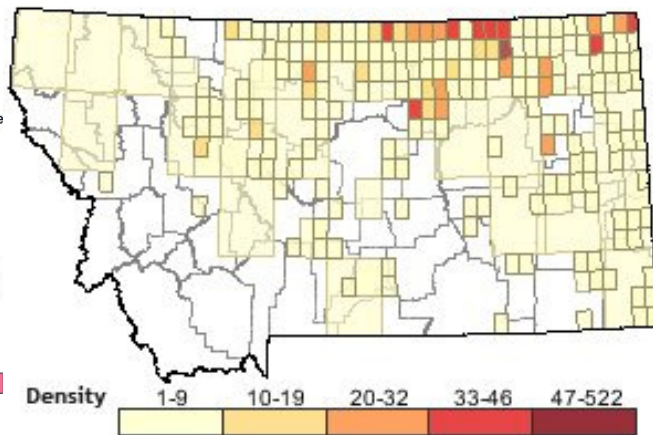
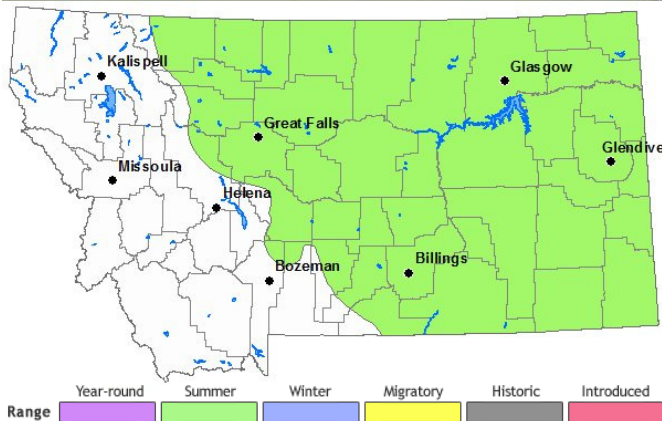
# Baird's Sparrow - *Ammodramus bairdii*



## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S3B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 2898

## General Description

The sexes of Baird's Sparrow are similar in appearance. The top of the head and nape are a rich, strong brownish-yellow, striped with black, especially on the sides of the crown and nape. The sides of the head and neck are pale buff and flecked with black with a narrow line of black spots on the side of the throat. The back feathers are dull black centrally, margined with grayish-white, producing a streaked appearance. The rump is lighter, more buffy. Underparts are white or pale buff on the throat and breast, streaked on the sides, flanks and across the breast with black. The streaks on the breast are sharply defined and form a necklace; those on sides are more diffuse and tinged with rufous. Wing feathers are grayish-brown, coverts are darker centrally, and all are edged with pale rufous. Two wing bars are present but indistinct. The length of the bird is 5.3 to 5.6 inches (13.5 to 14.2 cm), with a wing length of 2.75 to 3.0 in (7.0 to 7.6 cm) and tail length of 2.1 to 2.3 in (5.3 to 5.8 cm). The tail is dull brown or blackish. The middle pair of tail feathers is narrower and more pointed than the others, the outer feathers are narrowly edged with white and dull white terminally, while the other tail feathers are narrowly tipped with dull white or buffy. The bill is light flesh color and darker at the tip. The legs are flesh color, the feet are darker and the irises are brown. In Alberta, the average weight was 17.8 grams for females and 18.9 grams for males (Maher 1979).

The juvenile resembles the adult but with more diffuse markings; the buff of the head and nape is pale (Roberts 1949).

The song is best described as a high, clear jingling of notes. The several clear high "*tink*" notes are followed by clear musical trill "*tik a tl tleeeeeee*" (Sibley 2000). The call is a high, thin "*teep*."

## Habitat

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Baird's Sparrows prefer to nest in native prairie, but structure may ultimately be more important than plant species composition. Nesting may take place in tame grasses (nesting has been observed in crested wheat, while smooth brome is avoided) (Sutter 1998). This sparrow has also been found to use drier areas during unusually wet years, and wet areas during unusually dry years (Casey 2000). Because a relatively complex structure is so important for nesting, areas with little to no grazing activity are required.

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# Bald Eagle - *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*



## Special Status Species

**Global Rank:** G5

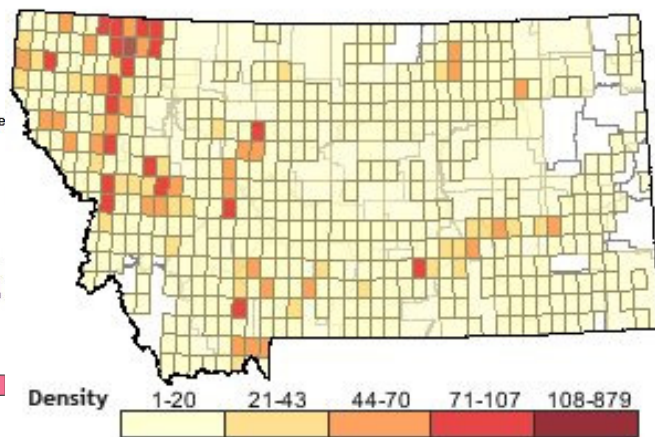
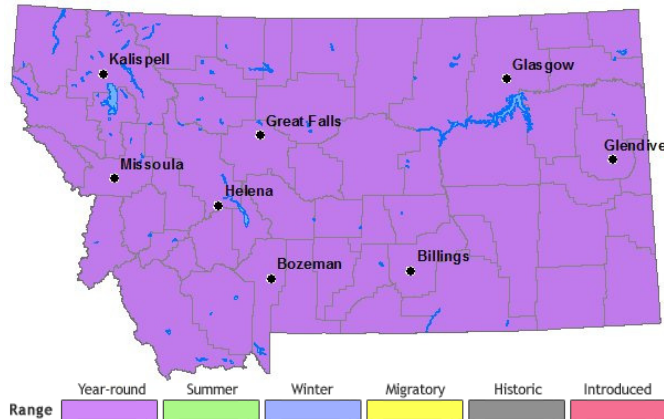
**State Rank:** S4

### Agency Status

**USFWS:** DM; BGEPA; MBTA; BCC

**USFS:** SENSITIVE

**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 12430

## General Description

With a white head and tail contrasting with a dark brown body and wings, the adult plumage of the Bald Eagle, attained at approximately 5 years of age, is unmistakable. In addition to the obvious white head and tail, other distinguishing features include the yellow bill, cere, iris, legs and feet. Second in size of North American birds of prey only to the California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), the Bald Eagle ranges in total length from 71 to 96 cm, with an average wingspan of 168 to 244 cm and a body mass ranging from 3.0 to 6.3 kg (Buehler 2000). In general appearance the sexes are similar with females approximately 25 percent larger than males. The plumage of the juvenile birds is much less distinct, being dark brown overall. The head, body, wings, and tail are dark brown with limited mottling on the underside of the wings and on the belly. While the legs and feet of the young bird are yellow like those of adults, the bill and cere are dark gray and the iris is dark brown.

The voice of the Bald Eagle is a weak series of chirps. The vocalization is described as flat chirping, stuttering whistles, given in a halting fashion, with the immature calls generally harsher and more shrill than those of the adults (Buehler 2000, Sibley 2000).

## Habitat

In Montana, as elsewhere, the Bald Eagle is primarily a species of riparian and lacustrine habitats (forested areas along rivers and lakes), especially during the breeding season. Important year-round habitat includes wetlands, major water bodies, spring spawning streams, ungulate winter ranges and open water areas (Bureau of Land Management 1986). Wintering habitat may include upland sites. Nesting sites are generally located within larger forested areas near large lakes and rivers where nests are usually built in the tallest, oldest, large diameter trees. Nesting site selection is dependent upon maximum local food availability and minimum disturbance from human activity (Montana Bald Eagle Working Group 1994). See the Montana Bald Eagle Management Plan (1994) for further details including home range sizes and habitat requirements of fledgling birds.

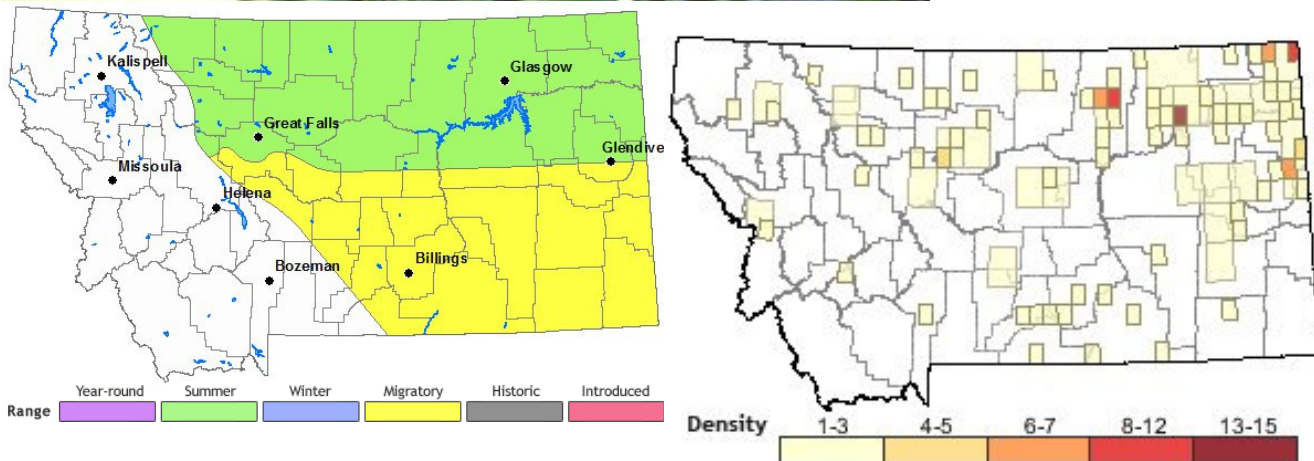
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# Baltimore Oriole - *Icterus galbula*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 191

## General Description

Species sexually dimorphic in size and plumage. Males have black head, upper mantle, wings and tail, with the rest of upper body orange; slim white stripe along wing. Females sometimes have dark olive-colored upper mantle and head, along with a paler tail and smaller size.

## Habitat

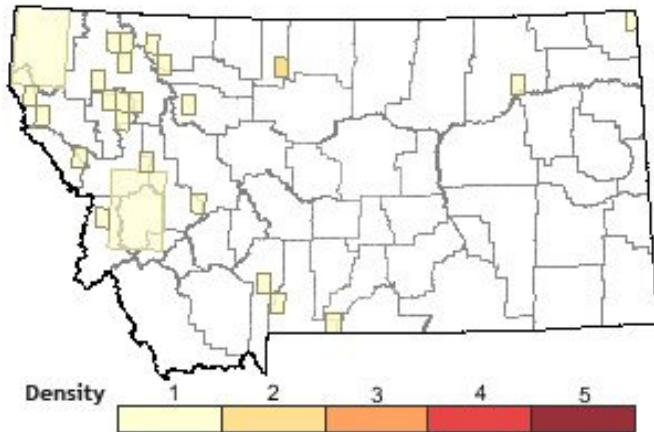
Species found in open woodlands, woodland margins, hedgerows and urban parks. Winters in woodlands and hedges.

# Band-tailed Pigeon - *Patagioenas fasciata*



**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 26

## General Description

Head purple-gray; remaining upperparts varying shades of gray to brownish gray (sometimes glossed with bronze); rump and wing-coverts (edged whitish) slightly paler. Underparts paler against upperparts. Tail dark gray at base and pale gray to gray-brown on distal half, these areas divided by a dark band.

## Habitat

Montane forests or mixed-species forests with predominantly oak and pine.

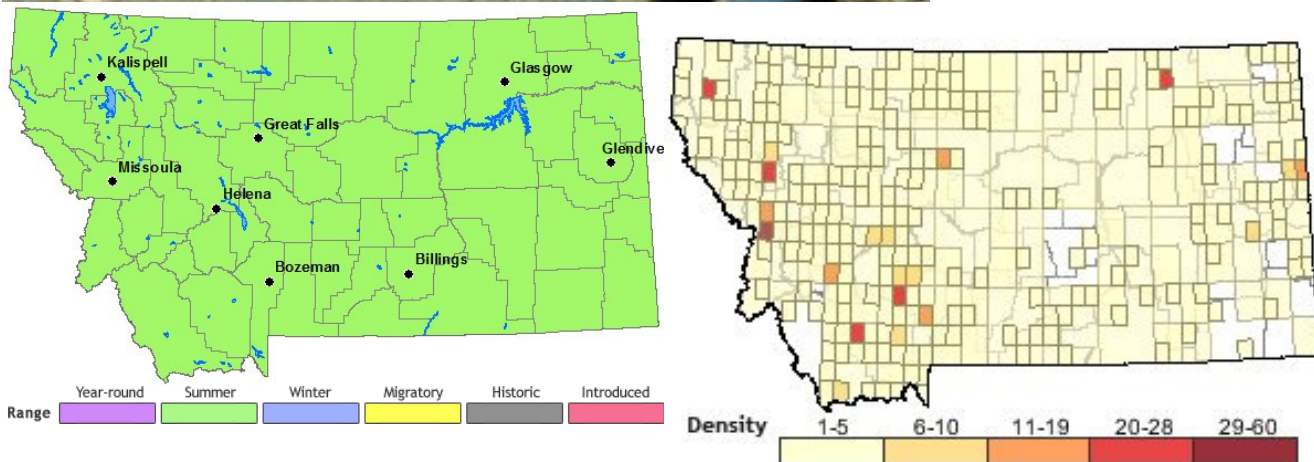


## Bank Swallow - *Riparia riparia*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1185

### General Description

Small swallow; length 12 cm, mass 10.2 to 18.8 grams. Sexes similar in appearance, and plumage similar throughout year. Adult has grayish-brown mantle, rump, and wing-coverts, contrasting with darker brown remiges and rectrices. Throat white, contrasting with distinct brown breast-band and grayish-brown crown. Brown breast band can extend to belly as sharp spike. This species is a highly social land bird. It nests in colonies ranging from 10 to almost 2000 active nests. In the Old World, is known as the Sand Martin (Garrison 1999).

### Habitat

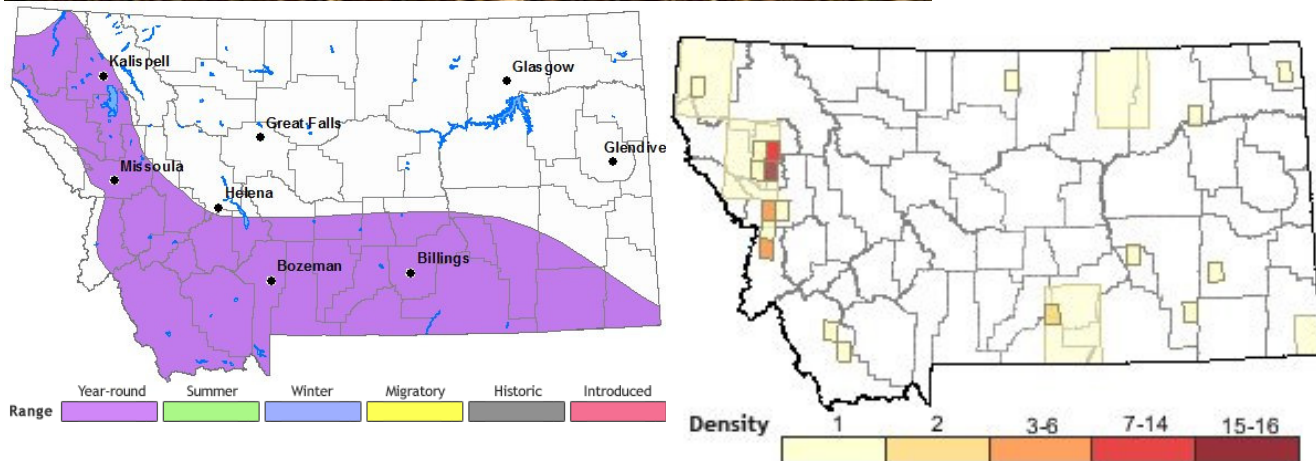
Presently breeds primarily in lowland areas along ocean coasts, rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands. Nesting colonies also found in artificial sites such as sand and gravel quarries and road cuts. Most rivers and streams with nesting habitats are low-gradient, meandering waterways with eroding streamside banks (Garrison 1999).

# Barn Owl - *Tyto alba*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 62

## General Description

A medium-sized owl, the Barn Owl is approximately 38 cm (16 inches) in length with a wingspan of 106 cm. They have broad, rounded wings and long legs. The features of dark eyes and a white disk-shaped face rimmed in dark cinnamon are unique to the species. Their head, back, and wings are a pale, tawny, buff color, finely marked with black and white. The tail, which is also tawny and matches the coloration of the wings, is short. The breast is white as are the sparsely feathered legs. The bill is light colored and the lower legs, feet and toes are a light gray, with dark gray claws (Marti 1992). True to most owls, the female is larger than the male (females average 34 to 40 cm, males are 32 to 38 cm) (Marti 1992). The breast of the female is slightly darker in coloration than that of the male and is sometimes heavily spotted (Marti 1992).

Juveniles resemble adults. Males younger than one year may have buff coloration on the breast (whereas adult males almost always lack such coloration) but are not as heavily speckled as females (Bloom 1978).

Vocalizations of the Barn Owl include a long hissing shriek "cssssshhH" (Sibley 2000) or an advertising call, identified as a drawn-out gargling scream "karr-r-r-r-r-ick" (Marti 1992).

## Habitat

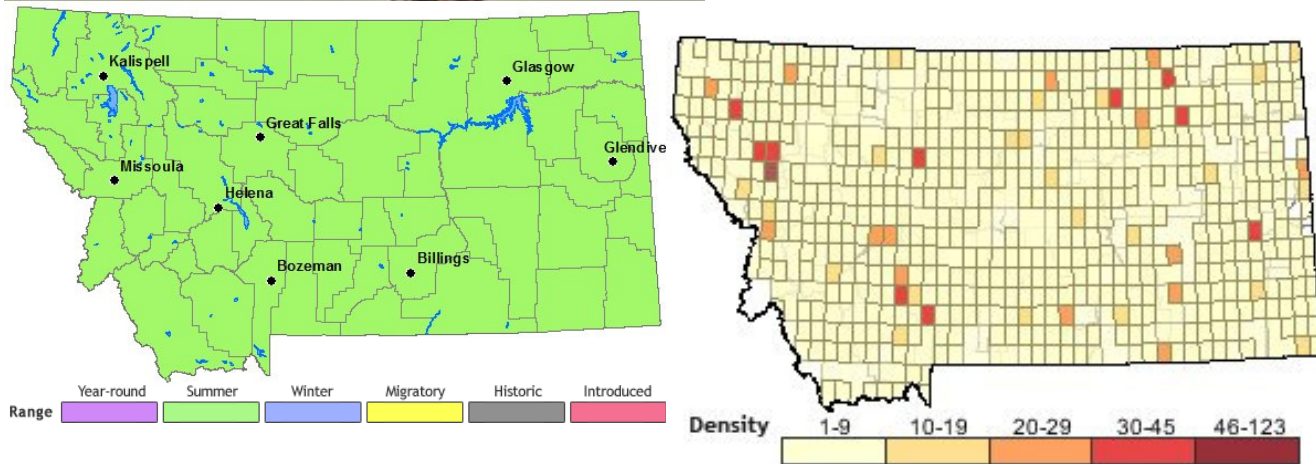
One report for the southeast corner of the state indicates the bird observed was foraging over shrub-steppe habitat (Lenard et al. 2003). Other specific information on habitat use in Montana is not documented, although it is likely the Barn Owl uses habitat similar to that which is used where the species is more common: open grassland, marsh, pasture lands, croplands, and hayfields.

# Barn Swallow - *Hirundo rustica*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3944

## General Description

A medium-sized swallow (17 to 20 g), with long forked tail. Steely-blue upperparts, rufous underparts, and chestnut forehead. Sexes are similar, but males have longer outer tail-streamers than females. Juveniles are similar to adults (Brown and Brown 1999).

## Habitat

Originally nesting primarily in caves, it has almost completely converted to breeding under the eaves of or inside artificial structures such as buildings and bridges. Presently found in various habitats, including agricultural areas, cities, suburbs, and along highways. Breeding habitat usually contains open areas (fields and meadows) for foraging, a nest site that includes a vertical or horizontal substrate underneath some type of roof and ceiling and a body of water that provides mud for nest building (Brown and Brown 1999).

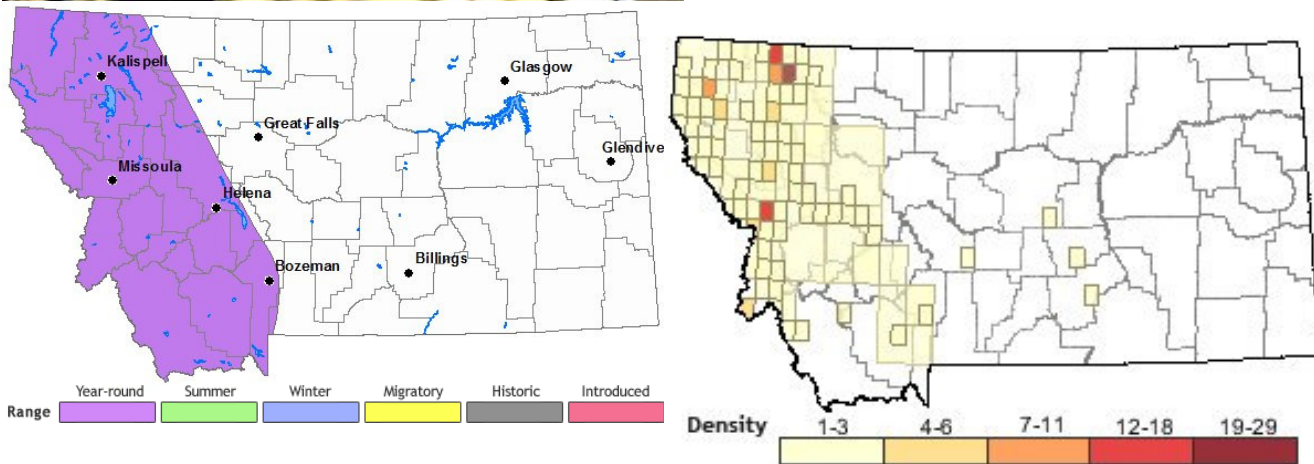


## Barred Owl - *Strix varia*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 311

### General Description

Round-headed, eyes brown, bill yellow. Facial disk whitish/brown with dark brown trim. Ventrally, a short bib across neck and upper chest, marked with horizontal brown barring. Chest, sides, and belly vertically streaked with dark brown on white. Dorsally, mottled brown and white. **SIZE:** 19 to 21 inches. **WEIGHT:** 22 to 29 ounces (one to two pounds). **VOICE:** "Who, who, who-whoo" usually given at least twice. Loud and resounding.

### Habitat

Restricted to forested areas, ranging from swamps and riparian areas to upland regions. Large, unfragmented blocks of forests preferred. Throughout its range, found in association with mature and old growth forests, typically of mixed deciduous-coniferous composition (Mazur and James 2000).



# Barrow's Goldeneye - *Bucephala islandica*



## Potential Species of Concern

Global Rank: G5

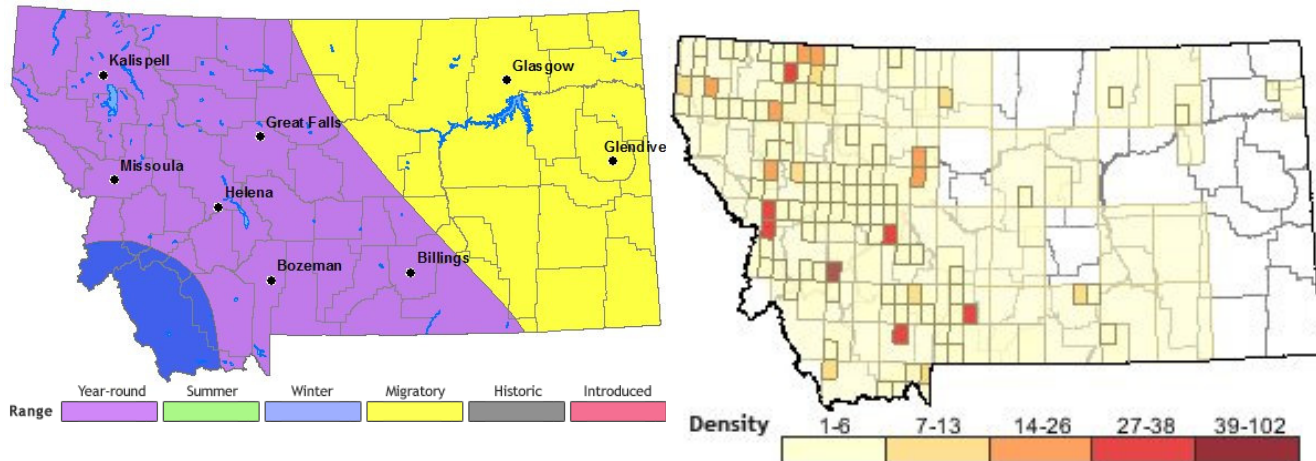
State Rank: S4

## Agency Status

USFWS:

USFS:

BLM:



Number of Observations: 1134

## General Description

Medium-sized diving duck. Total length, early-spring mass: male 48.4 cm, 1,278 g; female 43.2 cm, 818 g. Compact, chunky appearance with short neck and round body, with relatively large rounded head and short gray-black bill. Adult sexes are strongly dimorphic in size and plumage most of the year. Breeding male has striking pattern of iridescent, purplish-black head with bright, white crescent-patch between bill and eye; brilliant white sides, breast, belly and secondaries contrasted against black back, wings, and tail. Female has dark chocolate-brown head; slate-gray back, wings, and tail; and white flanks, belly, and breast. Both sexes have bright amber irides (hence the name "goldeneye"). Wing-beat is rapid with relatively deep arc; produces a distinctive "whistle." (Eadie et al. 2000).

## Habitat

Chiefly a bird of the western montane region of North America. This species is generally restricted to areas west of the Continental Divide. Prefers alkaline to freshwater lakes in parkland areas; to lesser extent, subalpine and alpine lakes, beaver ponds, and small sloughs (Eadie et al. 2000).

# Bay-breasted Warbler - *Setophaga castanea*



**Accidental Species**

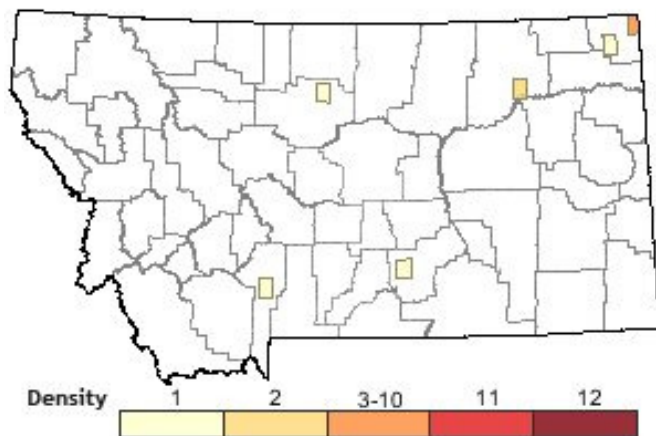
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 16

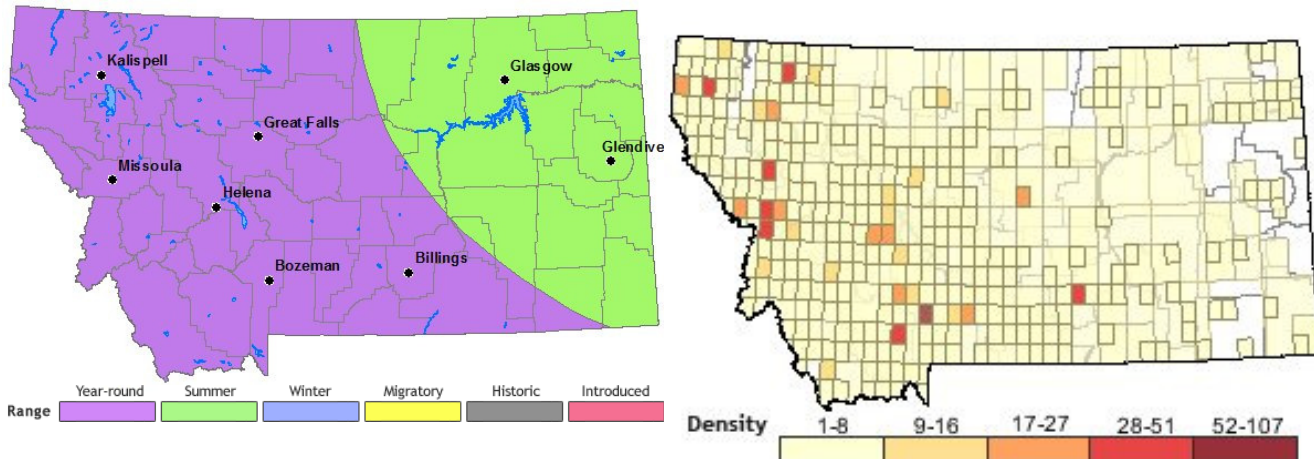
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## Belted Kingfisher - *Megaceryle alcyon*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2475

### General Description

Medium-sized kingfisher; 28 to 35 cm, 140 to 170 grams. Body stocky, head large with conspicuous ragged double-pointed crest that covers the entire pileum from the base of the bill to the nape. A nearly complete white collar across the hindneck contrasts with the uniform blue-gray dorsum. Sexes distinguished by dichromatic pectoral bands on white underparts. Male exhibits a single blue-gray band. Female also possesses a blue-gray pectoral band in addition to rufous sides and rufous band across the lower breast (Hamas 1994).

### Habitat

Inhabits streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, and estuaries or calm marine waters in which prey are clearly visible. Availability of suitable nesting sites - earthen banks where nesting burrows can be excavated - appears critical for the distribution and local abundance of this species (Hamas 1994).



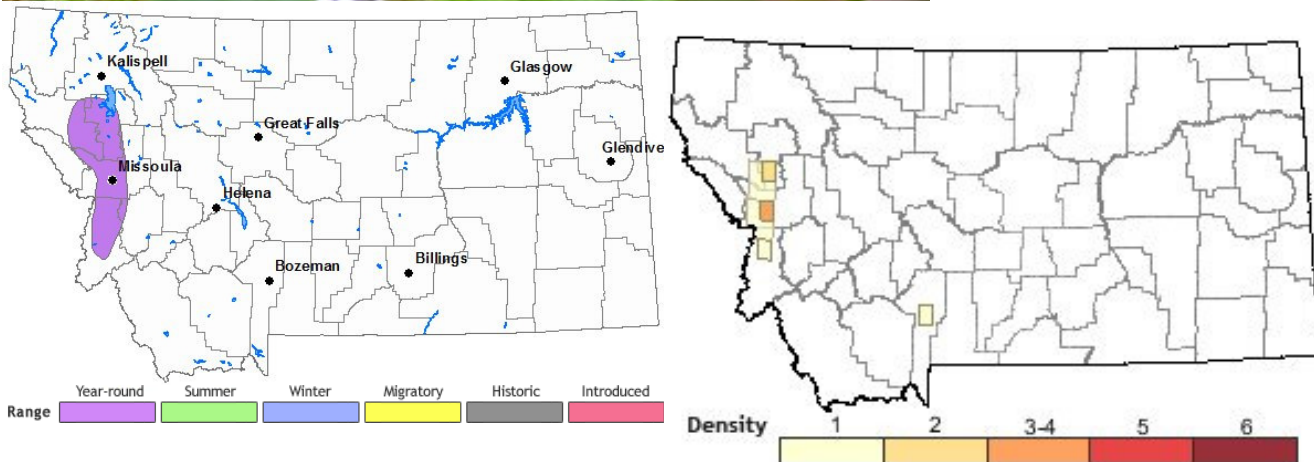
# Bewick's Wren - *Thryomanes bewickii*



**Accidental Species**

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 10

## General Description

A 13-centimeter-long bird with a long sideways-flitting tail edged with white spots, a long white eyebrow, a slender decurved bill, and a pale (whitish) unmarked throat and breast; dorsum is reddish-brown in the east, much grayer in the west.

## Habitat

Brushy areas, open country thickets, open and riparian woodland, and chaparral.



# Black Rosy-Finch - *Leucosticte atrata*



## Species of Concern

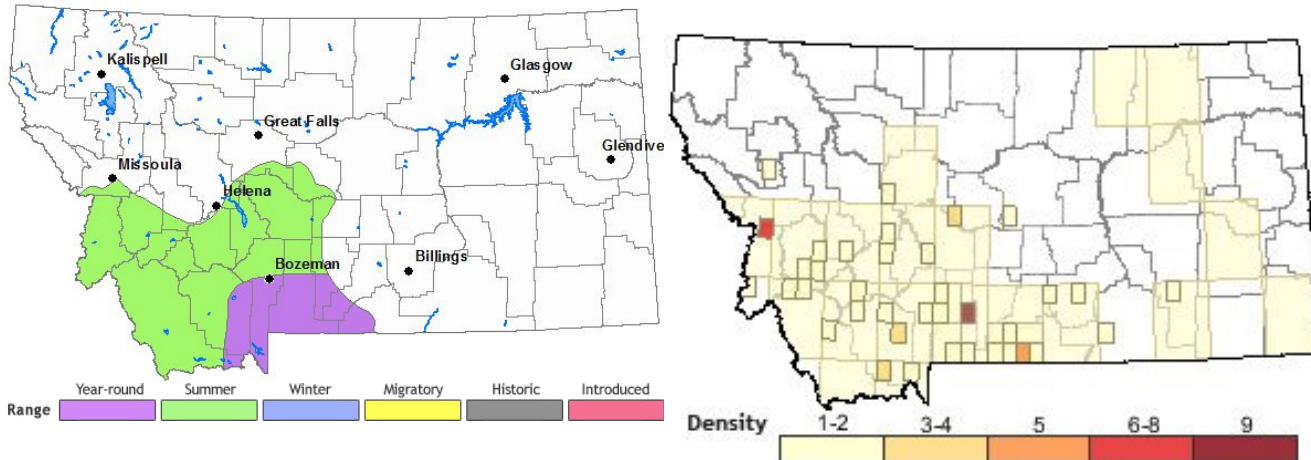
**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S2

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 117

## General Description

The Black Rosy-Finch is a medium-sized, slightly stocky finch of about 14 to 16 cm in length and 22 to 32 grams in weight, with a medium-sized bill for eating seeds. The sexes are similar in size and coloration, but the male plumage contrasts more and is more colorful. Males are a uniform dark brownish-black on the back, breast, neck, and face below the eye. The feathers of the belly, rump, upper- and under-tail coverts, and the bend of the wing (wrist) are broadly tipped with pink (more narrowly and reddish in summer). The forecrown is black; there is a silver-gray band around the hindcrown. The nasal tufts are white, and the tail is notched. The bill is yellow in winter and black during the breeding season. The legs are black and the under wings appear silvery during flight. Females are similar but with the body a lighter grayish-brown, the back more streaked, and the pink feathers reduced or absent; the gray on the hindcrown is often absent by midsummer. Juveniles are similar in appearance to females, but lighter (usually more gray-brown), and lacking the silver-gray hindcrown, black forehead, and pink on the feather margins (Johnson 2002).

## Habitat

Habitat use in Montana has not been studied, but is similar to other regions (P. Hendricks personal observation), where Black Rosy-Finches are known to nest in crevices in cliffs and talus among glaciers and snowfields above timberline (also possibly in abandoned buildings above treeline) and forage in barren, rocky or grassy areas adjacent to the nesting sites; in migration and winter they also occur in open situations, fields, cultivated lands, brushy areas, and around human habitation (AOU 1983, Johnson 2002). They may roost in mine shafts or similar protected sites. During some winters individuals move out onto the shortgrass and midgrass prairies to feed (Hendricks and Swenson 1983, Johnson 2002).

# Black Swift - *Cypseloides niger*



## Species of Concern

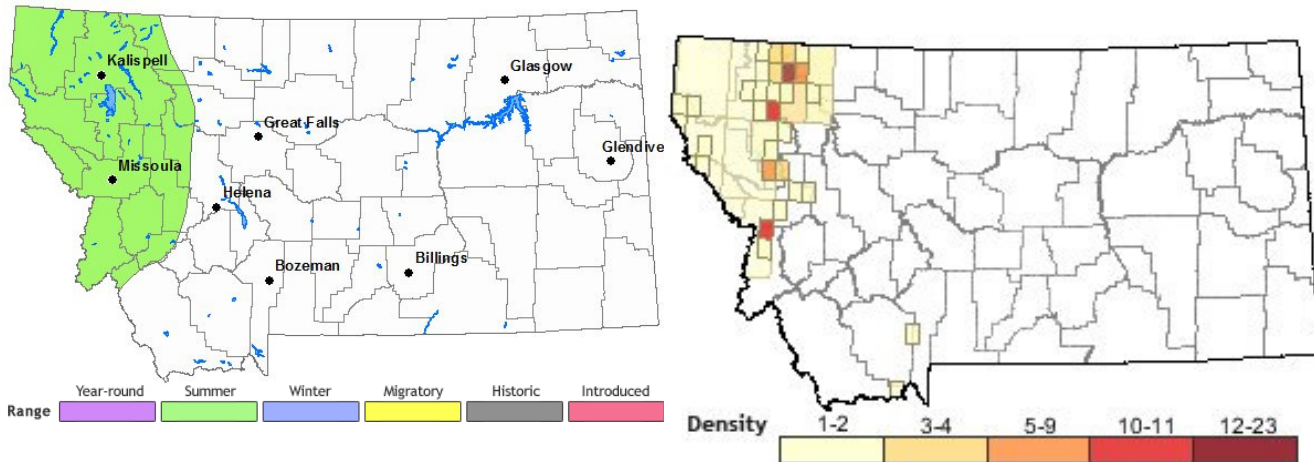
**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S1B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 132

## General Description

Black Swifts are the largest of the swifts in North America. They are over 7 inches in length and have wingspans up to 18 inches. As the name implies, Black Swifts are completely dark in appearance. A distinctly notched tail on the adult male is the only difference in appearance between the sexes. They have long, broad-based, and curved wings, similar to hummingbirds. The tail is square and often fanned. Juveniles are similar in appearance to adults, except for the small bands of white present across much of the underbody (neck, belly, and undertail coverts). The wingbeats are slow and shallow, often looking erratic in flight when foraging (Sibley 2000).

Black Swift vocalizations are usually low, twittering chips, often rapidly repeating and slowing down at the end. Call notes are higher, clearer and sometimes similar to the Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*); a sharp "gyp" or "kip" (Sibley 2000).

## Habitat

No specific information regarding Black Swift habitat exists for Montana. Information from other regions indicates they forage over forests and in open areas. They nest behind or next to waterfalls and wet cliffs (Michael 1927, Knorr 1961, Foerster and Collins 1990), on sea cliffs and in sea caves (Vrooman 1901, Legg 1956), and occasionally in limestone caves (Davis 1964). Nests are located in dark, inaccessible sites with an unobstructed flight path (Knorr and Knorr 1990). Nest site persistence and tenacity is almost absolute (Knorr and Knorr 1990). The nest is a cup-like structure of mud, mosses and algae.

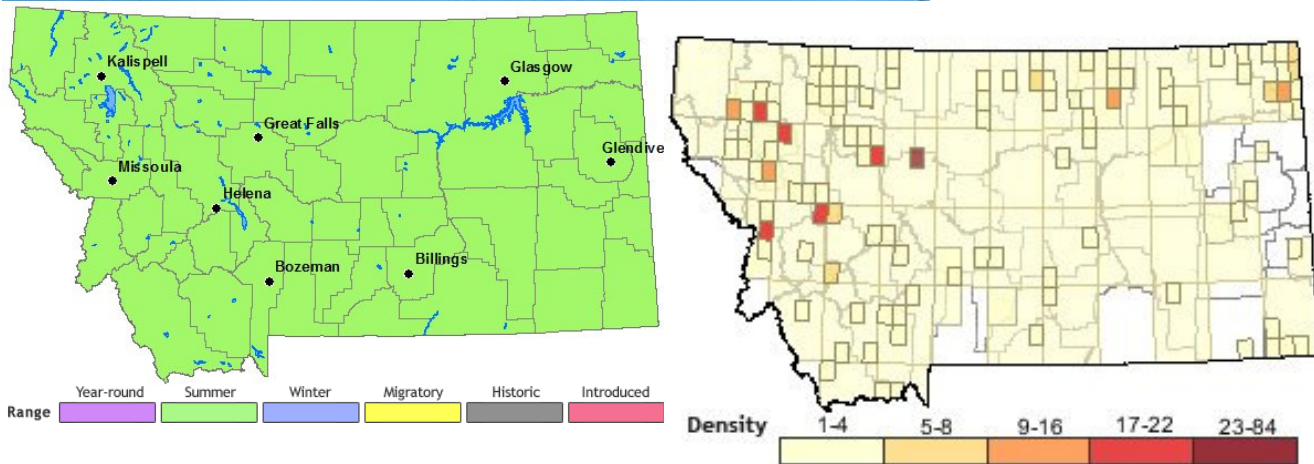
# Black Tern - *Chlidonias niger*



## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S3B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 611

## General Description

The head and body of breeding Black Terns are black, fading to gray on the rump. The undertail coverts are white. The upper surface of the wings and tail are dark gray, and the wing linings are pale gray. The leading margin of the wing from the body to the first digit is white. The bill is black and the feet are a dark reddish-purple (Goodwin 1960, Farrand 1983). Females are somewhat duller black than males, but this difference is often difficult to distinguish in the field (Goodwin 1960). Black Terns begin their prebasic (postbreeding) molt in late June when eggs begin to hatch. White feathers appear first around the eyes and cheeks, then on the forehead, neck, throat and breast, and finally on the abdomen. Heavily molting adults take on a peculiar, piebald appearance. The prebasic molt is completed during fall migration (Goodwin 1960). In basic (winter) plumage, the underparts are pure white except for a small, dark patch on each side of the breast. The back becomes a shade of gray similar to the wings and tail. A blackish cap joins black ear coverts on the otherwise white head (Goodwin 1960, Farrand 1983). The juvenile plumage is similar to the basic plumage, but the feathers of the back are darker and the wing coverts and cap are barred and scalloped brown (Goodwin 1960, Farrand 1983). The total length of adults is 23 to 26.5 cm (9 to 10.5 inches).

Vocalizations include shrill, somewhat metallic alarm notes, described as "kik" or "keek", depending upon intensity and level of motivation, and a complex of contact calls described as "kyew", followed by one to four additional syllables, as "kyew-dik", "kyew-dik-ik", etc. (Goodwin 1960). The "kik" call commonly serves as a signal of impending danger in the nesting area. It may also be given during the ascent portion of the courtship flight. The "keek" call is similar to, but more shrill and forceful than, the "kik" call, and is given during aggressive attacks on enemies in close proximity to the nest. The frequency of repetition increases as they become more aggressive. The "kyew" calls are given as parents approach and leave the nest, during foraging flights, by adults accompanied in flight by young, by parents calling to young at or near the nest, by parents at the nest during incubation, brooding and feeding, and during the courtship flights (Goodwin 1960).

Black Tern eggs are ovate with a tendency toward ovate-pyriform (Bent 1921). Ground color varies from dark olive to light buff with markings of dark brown and gray. Markings vary from small dots and scrawls to very large blotches and are often particularly heavy around the larger end of the egg (Goodwin 1960). The average dimensions for 122 eggs in the U.S. National Museum were 34 x 24 mm (Bent 1921).

## Habitat

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Black Tern breeding habitat in Montana is mostly wetlands, marshes, prairie potholes, and small ponds. However, several locations are on man-made islands or islands in man-made reservoirs. Across all Montana sites where Black Terns are present, approximately 30%-50% of the wetland complex is emergent vegetation. Vegetation within known breeding colonies includes alkali bulrushes, canary reed-grass, cattail spp., sedge spp., rush spp., reed spp., grass spp., *Polygonum* spp., *Juncus* spp. and *Potamogeton* spp., indicating a wide variety of potential habitats are usable by Black Terns. Water levels in known breeding localities range from about 0.5 m to greater than 2.0 m with most having depths between 0.5 m and 1.0 m (MTNHP 2003).

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## Black Turnstone - *Arenaria melanocephala*



**Accidental Species**

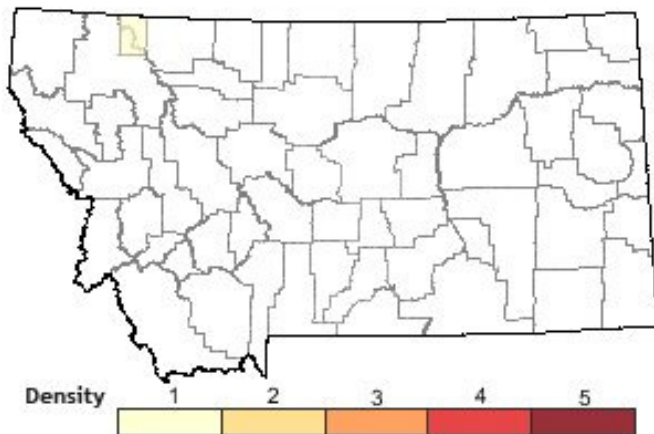
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

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# Black-and-white Warbler - *Mniotilta varia*



## Potential Species of Concern

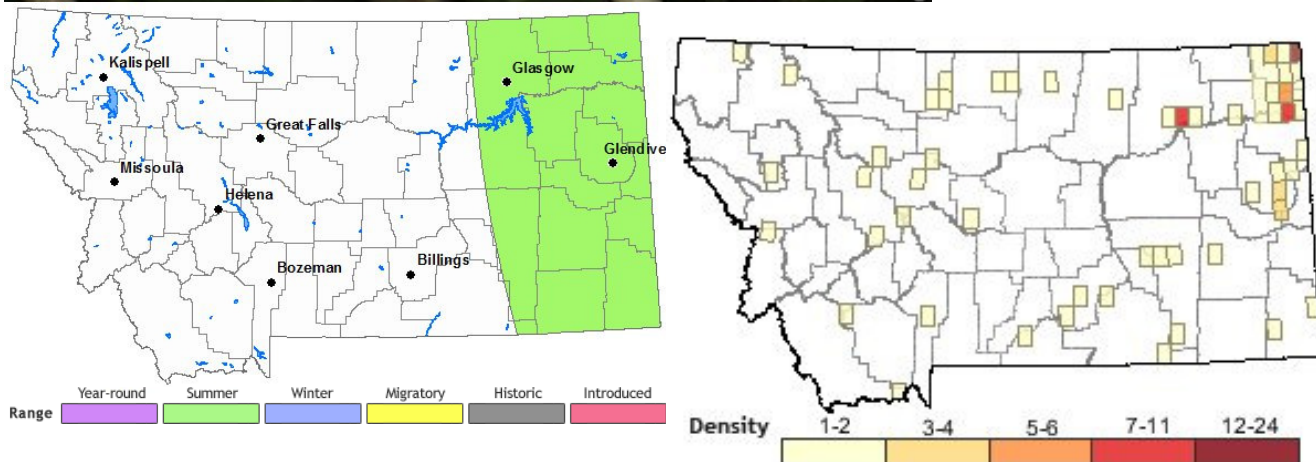
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

### Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 131

## General Description

Distinctly striped in black-and white plumage with a slightly decurved bill for bark foraging, the Black-and-white Warbler moves vertically along tree trunks, exhibiting characteristics generally attributed to nuthatches. The adult body length ranges from 11 to 13 cm, with an average wingspan of 21 cm. Body mass ranges from 8.8 to 15.2 grams, and bill length from 10.0 to 13.7 mm. The female is the smaller of the two sexes. Males, exhibiting darker, more contrasted markings than females in both breeding and non-breeding plumages, are defined by conspicuous black and white coloration. In breeding plumage, the male crown has a broad white median stripe, black sides, and a broad white superciliary stripe that extends to the nape. The lores and ear coverts are black, while the submustachial stripe is white above a black throat with black and white streaked sides of the neck. A white eye-ring contrasts with black ear coverts. The upper and underparts are streaked with black and white, the underparts being the more distinct and boldly marked. The wings are black with two evident wing bars. The feathers of this warbler's truncate tail are dull black marked with white, revealing white tail spots. The female's breeding plumage is similar to the males, but with pale gray lores and ear coverts and less contrasting black and white markings overall. A narrow, black eye stripe, white throat, and a less defined streaking on the back also distinguish the female from the male. Additionally, the female's tail spots are less distinct and a faint buff wash on the flanks and sides of the throat is generally present (Kricher 1995). The eyes have a brown iris. The feet in the juveniles are a pinkish-buff, becoming darker to black with age.

The vocalization of the Black-and-white Warbler is described as a thin, high-pitched two syllable squeaky "weesee, weesee, weesee," or "squeaky, squeaky, squeaky," repeated upwards of ten times (Kricher 1995). One of the highest pitched of the wood warblers, the song of the Black-and-white Warbler is described as resembling the sound of a wet rag wiped repeatedly across glass (Bent 1953, Lemon et al. 1983, as cited in Kricher 1995). During breeding, a variation of the primary song is of a longer, faster, and more varied pitch (Bent 1953). Although varied, the call note of this species can be described as a sharp "chip," "pit," or sharp rattling "stick" (Terres 1980, Sibley

2000).

## Habitat

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Information on habitat use in Montana is limited. Existing records indicate observations in riparian habitat and woody draws, those of mixed deciduous and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), in the eastern part of the state (Skaar unpublished data). One observation record indicates a female feeding on Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) northeast of Helena, while numerous records exist for the deciduous habitat in the town park in Westby, as well as that of several backyards, specifically in the northeast portion of the state (Lenard et al. 2003).

In general, the Black-and-white Warbler inhabits young, medium-aged and mature deciduous and mixed forests during the breeding season (Bushman and Therres 1988, Kricher 1995). Studies of habitat selection have yielded conflicting results that appear to be due to geography, as well as variations in forest type and stand age. In the southern part of its range, this species appears to be most closely associated with relatively closed-canopied forests with low shrub density (Conner et al. 1983, Crawford et al. 1981, Noon et al. 1980, Wilson et al. 1995). In aspen forests in Alberta, however, stands with high shrub density were avoided (Westworth and Telfer 1993). Black-and-white Warblers were associated with high tree density and high canopy volume (indicative of mid- to late-successional forests) in mixed forests of central Ontario (Clark et al. 1983). The Black-and-white Warbler typically nests on the ground, often adjacent to a tree, shrub, rock, stump or log, under a shrub or dead branches, or, more rarely, atop stumps (Bent 1953, Kricher 1995).

A wide variety of habitats are used during the non-breeding season, from early successional disturbed areas to mature forests (Kricher 1995). Caribbean habitats utilized include coastal forest, dry interior forest, wet forest, forest edge, pine woods, riparian areas, wetlands, urban habitats that provide plant cover, and some open areas (Arendt 1992). Cacao, citrus, mango, shade coffee, and pine plantations in Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and Costa Rica are also selected (Robbins et al. 1992). Even though it showed a preference for undisturbed habitats, particularly forest, this species is considered a habitat generalist in western Mexico (Hutto 1992). Primary forest is preferred to other habitat types in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico (Greenberg 1992, Lynch 1989) and in Veracruz, Mexico (Rappole et al. 1992). In the Virgin Islands, they exhibited a preference for moist forest (90.5% of detections) over other habitat types (Askins et al. 1992).

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# Black-backed Woodpecker - *Picoides arcticus*

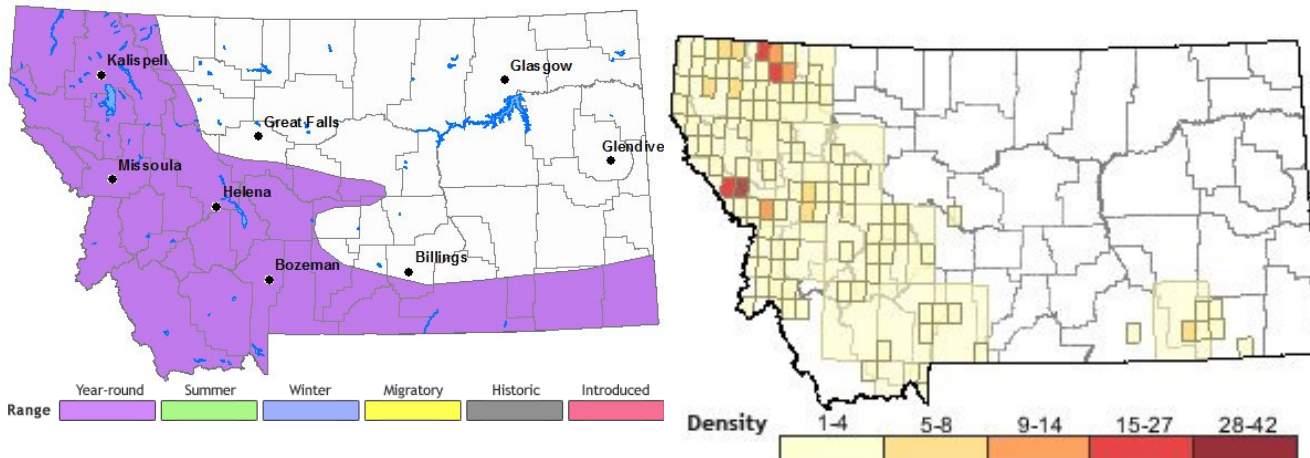


## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**  
**USFS:** SENSITIVE  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 495

## General Description

Black-backed Woodpeckers are at the large end of the medium-sized woodpeckers. At 9.5 inches in length, only the flickers and Pileated Woodpeckers (*Dryocopus pileatus*) are larger. Adults are similar in size and in appearance except for the yellow crown present only on the males. The back of the head, neck, back, and wings (upperparts) are all black and the chin, throat, breast and belly (underparts) are white. The sides and flanks are also white with heavy black barring. A strong white line runs below the eye from the bill to the nape (Dixon and Saab 2000). The wing primaries are barred black and white and only the outer tail feathers (rectrices) are white; otherwise the tail is black. Juvenile birds are similar in appearance but much duller overall. They have a plain black crown, with no, or nearly no, crown patch, and a washed out or buffy look to the underparts. Black-backed Woodpeckers, like Three-toed Woodpeckers (*Picoides tridactylus*), have only 3 toes on each foot rather than the normal 4 toes (Dixon and Saab 2000).

The call note, a single metallic "*kyik*" or "*chet*" (similar to Hairy Woodpecker, *Picoides villosus*) helps to detect the Black-backed Woodpecker. They also use a unique agonistic "*wet-et-ddd-eee-yaaa*," or "*scream-rattle-snarl*" call in association with a hunched wing-spreading display (Short 1974). Drumming is variable (fast or slow) in long, even rolls (Farrand 1983, Goggans 1989). Drumming is described as coming in 2-second bursts tapering off at the end, at intervals of 30 to 40 seconds, suggestive of Pileated Woodpeckers. They also give single raps when nervous or about to roost (Kilham 1966).

## Habitat

The habitat of Black-backed Woodpeckers in Montana is early successional, burned forest of mixed conifer, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and spruce-fir (Hutto 1995a, 1995b), although they are more numerous in lower



elevation Douglas-fir and pine forest habitats than in higher elevation subalpine spruce forest habitats (Bock and Bock 1974). This is supported by Harris (1982) who found Black-backed Woodpeckers in two recently burned forests comprised of 73% and 77% Douglas-fir, respectively. They appear to concentrate in recently burned forests and remain for several years (3 to 5) before leaving due to prey source decline (Harris 1982). In northwestern Montana, Black-backed Woodpeckers nested in areas of western larch (*Larix occidentalis*)/Douglas-fir forest with a major component of old-growth (McClelland et al. 1979). Harris (1982) found Black-backed Woodpeckers nesting within western larch even though the stand was predominately Douglas-fir. McClelland et al. (1979) determined the decay of heartwood while maintaining a hard outer shell of western larch creates an ideal nesting site for Black-backed Woodpeckers to excavate.

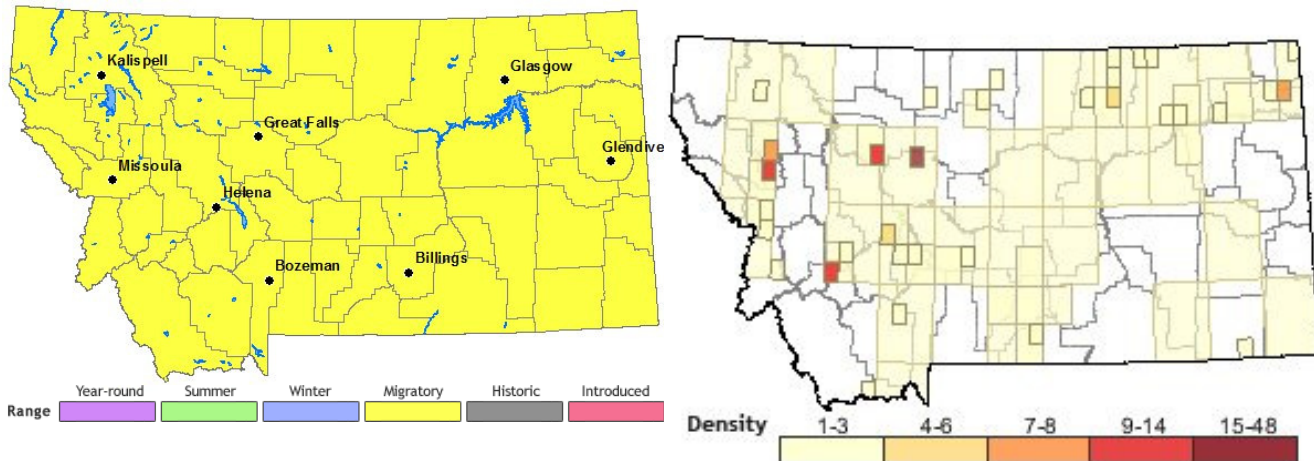
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# Black-bellied Plover - *Pluvialis squatarola*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 236

## General Description

Black belly with white crown; upper body speckled with dark (black and brown) and light (cream, gray and white) spots. Short and thick bill along with large neck. Sexual difference unusual in shorebirds.

## Habitat

Migrants are likely to be found along lakes or reservoirs, but sometimes on plowed fields or short meadows or pastures (Johnsgard 1986).

# Black-billed Cuckoo - *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*



## Species of Concern

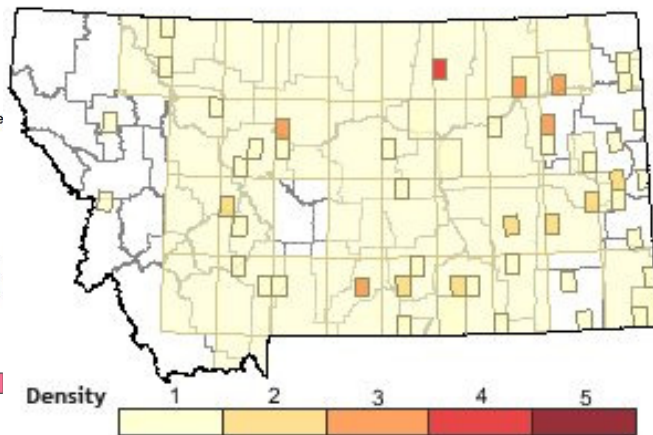
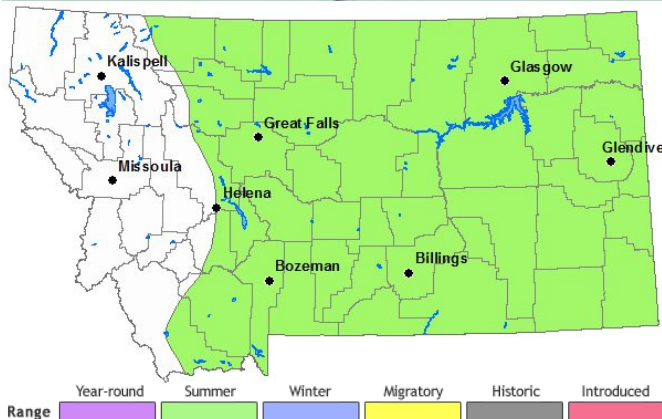
Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: S3B

## Agency Status

USFWS:

USFS:

BLM:



Number of Observations: 110

## General Description

The Black-billed Cuckoo is a 31 centimeter-long bird with a stout slightly decurved bill, zygodactyl feet, grayish-brown dorsum, white venter (except tail), and a long tail that is patterned on the underside in gray with white feather tips. The bill is usually all dark, and may show yellow at the base of the lower mandible. There is a reddish eye ring. In juveniles, the undertail is whiter, the eye ring is buffy, the pale underparts may have a buffy tinge, and there may be some rusty-brown color on the outer wing.

## Habitat

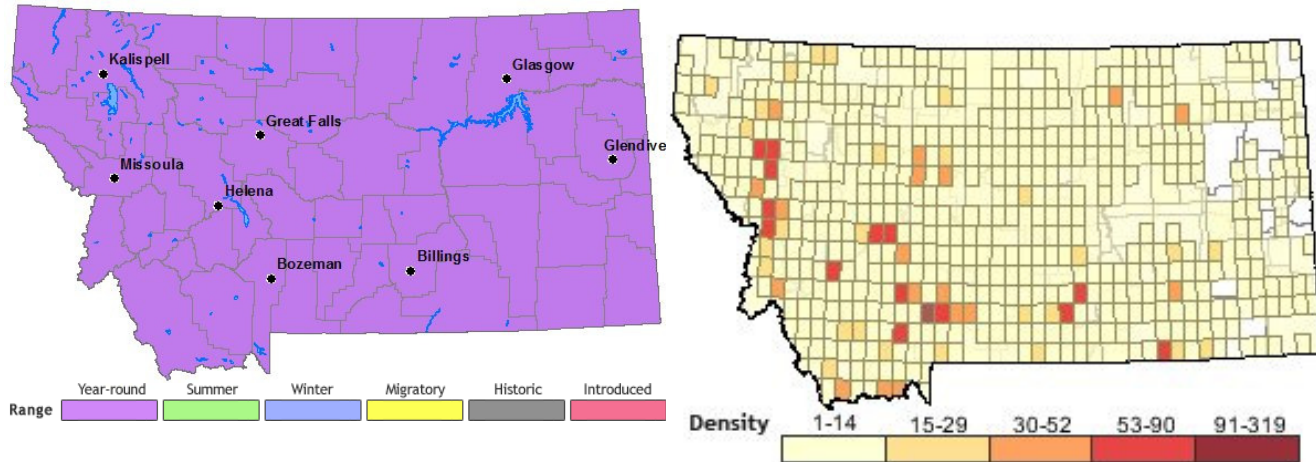
Black-billed Cuckoos are birds of wooded draws, forest edges, thickets, and shelterbelts. In Montana they are found most often in riparian cottonwoods, green ashes, and American elms with a shrubby understory of willows, box elders, and alders; they also occur in foothill deciduous woodlands (Skaar 1969; Walcheck 1969, 1970; Kroodsmma 1973; Jones and Hansen 2009).

# Black-billed Magpie - *Pica hudsonia*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 7342

## General Description

The Black-billed Magpie is medium-sized and boldly patterned. Sexes similar in appearance, and plumages similar throughout year. Adults largely black, with contrasting white scapulars, white belly, iridescent metallic blue-green wings and tail, and large white markings on primaries (rarely on secondaries), with form white patch on wing when wing is extended. Tail long and graduated. Sexes distinguished by differences in size. Males are larger (Trost 1999).

## Habitat

Historically, it frequently followed Native Americans and lived on the refuse of their hunts. In breeding season will be found in thickets in riparian areas, often associated with open meadows, grasslands, or sagebrush for foraging. Less specific in its habitat requirements in nonbreeding season. Frequently numerous near human habitats such as livestock feedlots, barnyards, landfills, sewage lagoons, and grain elevators (Trost 1999).

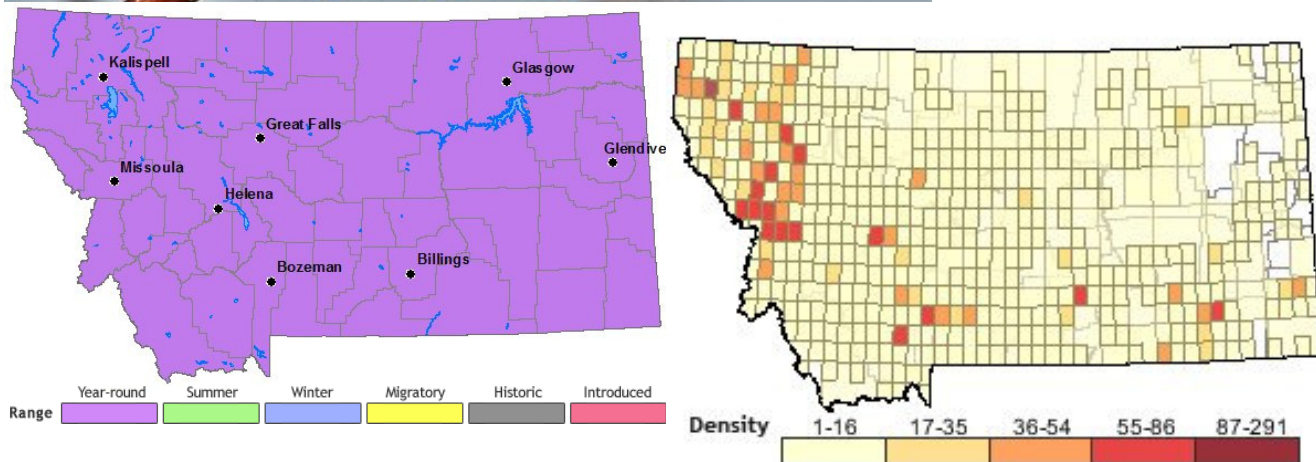


# Black-capped Chickadee - *Poecile atricapillus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 8505

## General Description

Solid black cap and bib, white cheeks, unstreaked greenish gray back, buffy flanks and crissum, dark grayish wings and tail. Pale edgings on the wing coverts and flight feathers. Bill black; legs and toes bluish gray, iris dark brown. Wings rounded; tail long. Sexes alike in plumage, with males slightly longer than females in wing and tail. Length 12.3 to 14.6 cm; mass 10-14 grams (Smith 1993).

## Habitat

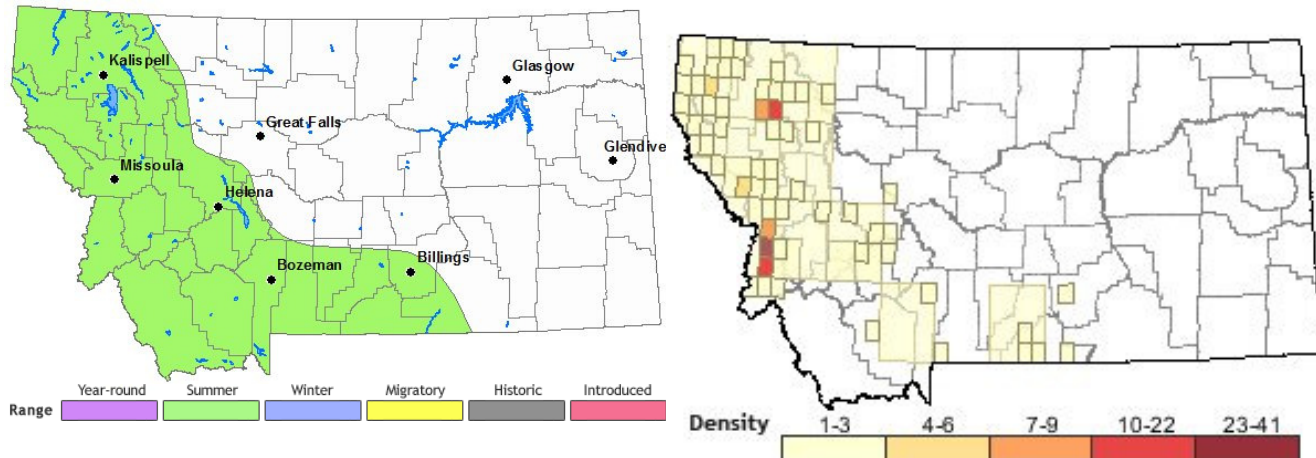
Deciduous and mixed deciduous/coniferous woodland, open woods and parks, willow thickets, and cottonwood groves. Also disturbed areas such as old fields or suburban areas. Generally more common near edges of wooded areas (Smith 1993).

# Black-chinned Hummingbird - *Archilochus alexandri*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 254

## General Description

Small (3.0 to 3.5 g), slender hummingbird with a straight, black bill. Adult males are dull metallic bronze-green above; chin and upper throat velvety black, with a metallic violet iridescence on lower throat; underparts dull grayish white with sides and flanks darker and glossed with metallic bronze-green; central pair of tail feathers green, others black (often with a purplish sheen). Adult female dull metallic bronze-green above, but with duller head; chin, upper throat, and sides of throat creamy, often streaked or occasionally spotted with dusky. Breast and most of belly dull white or grayish white, often a faint brownish wash on sides bordered on flanks by metallic bronze-green. Tail greenish or blackish, with the 3 outer pairs of rectrices broadly tipped with white. Young resemble adult females, except for presence of buffy emarginations at tips of head and body feathers, which disappear through wear (Baltosser and Russell 2000).

## Habitat

In the arid western portion of range, the Black-chinned Hummingbird nests in environments that often include cottonwood, sycamore, willow, salt-cedar, sugar-berry, and oak. In most regions, its preferred habitat is a canyon or flood-plain riparian community (Baltosser and Russell 2000).

# Black-crowned Night-Heron - *Nycticorax nycticorax*



## Species of Concern

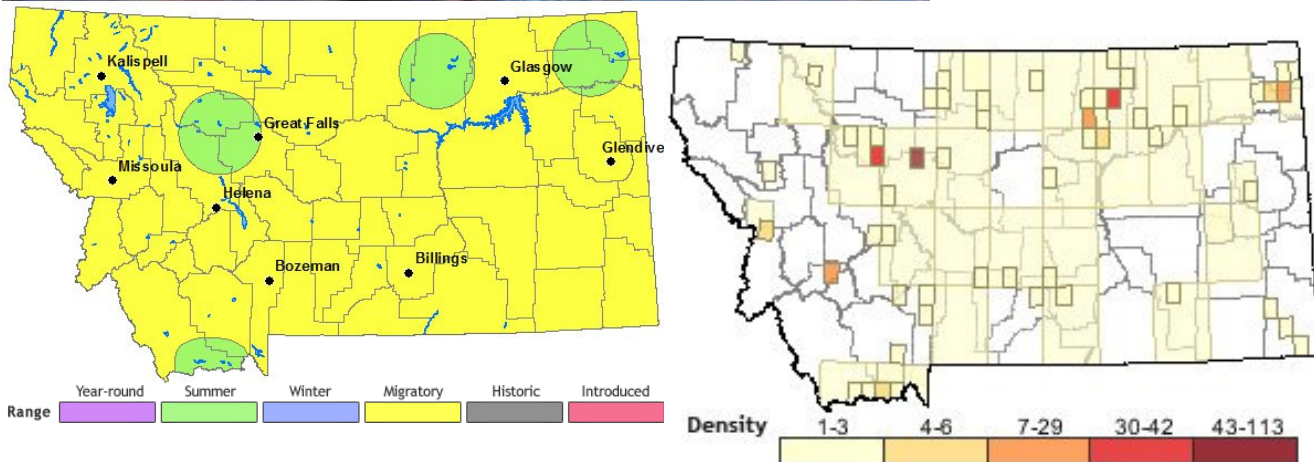
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 457

## General Description

The Black-crowned Night-Heron is a medium sized wading bird (length 58 to 66 cm) of stocky build, with a relatively large head, and fairly short neck and legs. Males and females are similar in plumage, with the males of slightly larger size. The adults are dominated by gray plumage, complete with black crown, black bill, and yellow to yellow-green legs. The eye, which start out as a grayish-olive at hatching, quickly turn to light yellow, bright yellow, orange, and finally to bright red by 2 to 3 years of age (Davis 1993). During the breeding season, adults also have long white occipital plumes (average of 2 to 3) extending from the distinctly black crown (Davis 1993, Sibley 2000). Juveniles have broad streaks of light brown-over-white on the breast and the wing coverts are covered in large, white spots. They lack the gray, black, and white plumage distinctive in the adults (Sibley 2000).

The common call of the Black-crowned Night-Heron includes a "Qua, Quak, Quark" or "Squawk," on the part of adults. An advertising call, identified as a hissing "Plup", is given from the nest, while the common call is given in flight or while perching (Davis 1993). The vocalization of the young varies as the birds age, from newly hatched to grown young, from a "Pip, Pip, Pip" to a "Chuck, Chuck-a-chuck, Chuck, Chuck" (Davis 1993).

## Habitat

Although highly adaptable to a variety of habitats, the Black-crowned Night-Heron is likely to use shallow bulrush (*Scirpus* spp.) or cattail (*Typha* spp.) marshes, most often within a grassland landscape (Johnsgard 1983). In addition, they will also nest in cottonwoods, willows, or other wetland vegetation that allows them to nest over water or on islands that may afford them protection from mammalian predators (Davis 1993, Casey 2000). Most colonies are located in large wetland complexes, typically with a one-to-one ratio of open water and emergent vegetation (Davis 1993).

In general, Black-crowned Night-Herons are found in marshes, swamps, wooded streams, mangroves, shores of

lakes, ponds, lagoons, in salt water, brackish, and freshwater areas. Foraging habitat is typically in the shallow, vegetated edges of these ponds, lakes, creeks, and marshes. This heron roosts by day in mangroves or swampy woodland. Eggs are laid in a platform nest in groves of trees near coastal marshes or on marine islands, swamps, marsh vegetation, clumps of grass on dry ground, orchards, and in many other locations. Nesting usually occurs in the same locality with other heron species.

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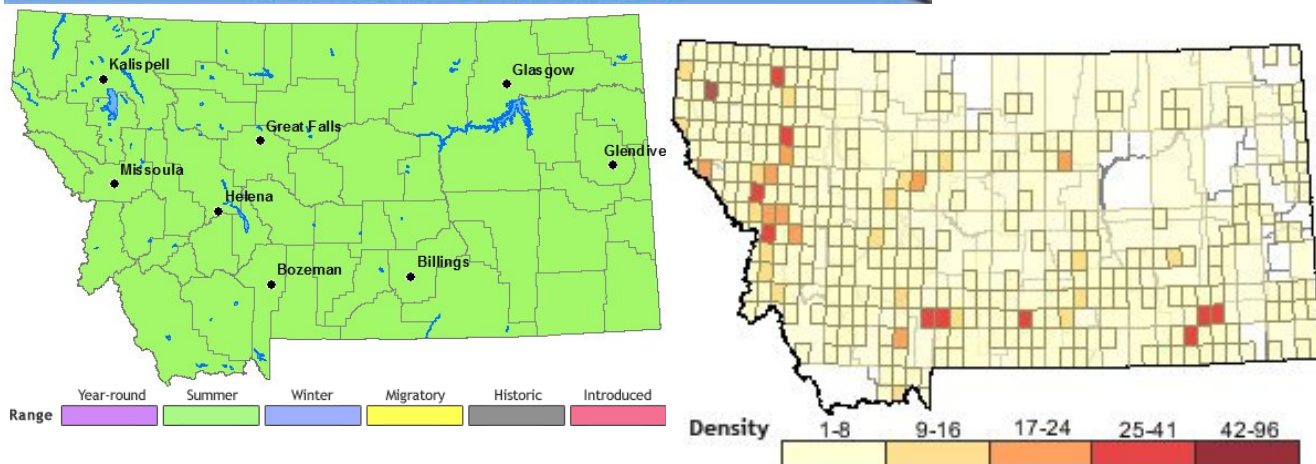


# Black-headed Grosbeak - *Pheucticus melanocephalus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2470

## General Description

A medium-sized cardinal finch. Length 18 to 19 cm. Mass 40 to 50 grams. Sexually dichromatic throughout the year. Adult males have black on head (sometimes broken by a partial or complete eye-stripe of bright cinnamon); black wings and tail with sharply contrasting white spots; brilliant cinnamon on breast, rump, nape, and flanks; and a patch of lemon yellow on the belly. Females have brown head with buffy to white (occasionally lemon yellow) crown and eye-stripe, a pale chin, brown wings and tail with indistinct buffy spots and heavily streaked body plumage that is dull cinnamon to buff with variable amounts of yellow (Hill 1995).

## Habitat

Occupies diverse habitats. Cottonwood/willow groves and other riparian habitats in desert and dry grassland; openings in mature pine forest; aspen groves; deciduous growth especially in mountain valleys/canyons; pinyon-juniper woodlands; oak savanna; gardens; orchards. Relatively tolerant of human disturbance (Hill 1995).

# Black-legged Kittiwake - *Rissa tridactyla*



**Accidental Species**

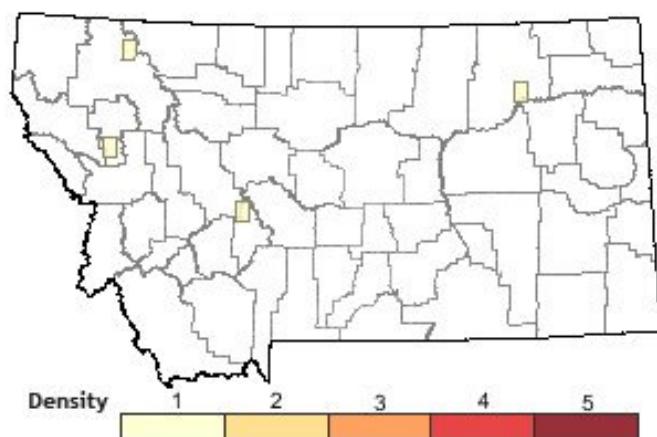
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 4

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# Black-necked Stilt - *Himantopus mexicanus*

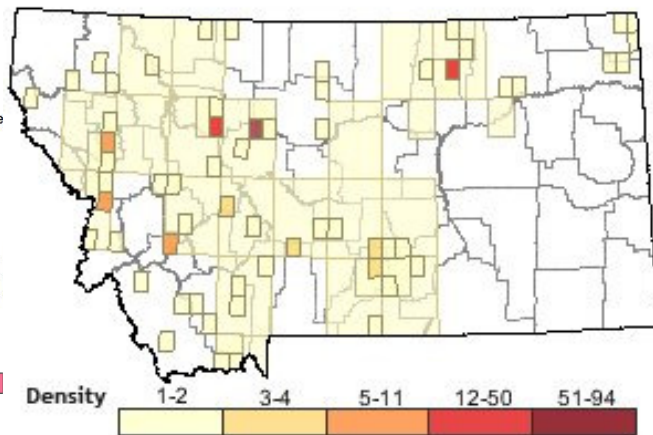
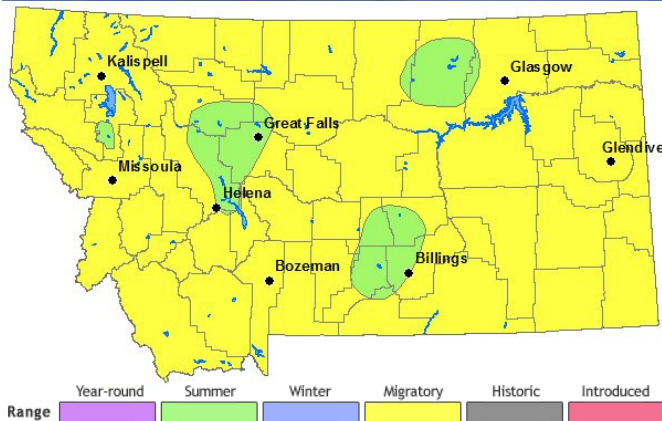


## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 386

## General Description

The Black-necked Stilt is a tall, slender wader with a long, straight, and slender bill, the upperparts glossy black (male) or duller black tinged with brown (female) with a white spot above the eye, underparts white, the legs and feet very long and red or pink. The iris is red. Immatures have buffy edges on the dark brown feathers of the upperparts.

## Habitat

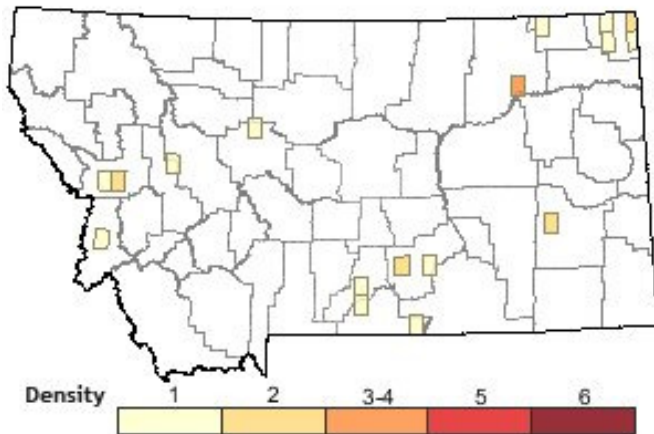
Black-necked Stilts breed on the edges of shallow marshes, often on islands, building a scrape that is lined with vegetation, pebbles, and feathers. Nests may be out in the open or among low vegetation and are usually within 50 m of water (Robinson et al. 1999). Taking full advantage of their long legs, almost all feeding occurs in the water. In Montana, Black-necked Stilts nest in medium to large wetland complexes of open marshes and meadows, often in alkali wetlands. Habitats used during migration similar to those used in other seasons, but they also occur on coastal mud flats.

# Black-throated Blue Warbler - *Setophaga caerulescens*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 24

## General Description

Species sexually dimorphic. Males have dark blue back, while their flanks, face, and throat are black; the lower part of underparts white. Females greenish-gray in color with a distinguishable white wing spot; also white stripe under wing.

## Habitat

During migration, species prefers forest edges, riparian woodlands, and other well-vegetated habitats, including parks and gardens. Species breeds in undisturbed deciduous/coniferous forests.



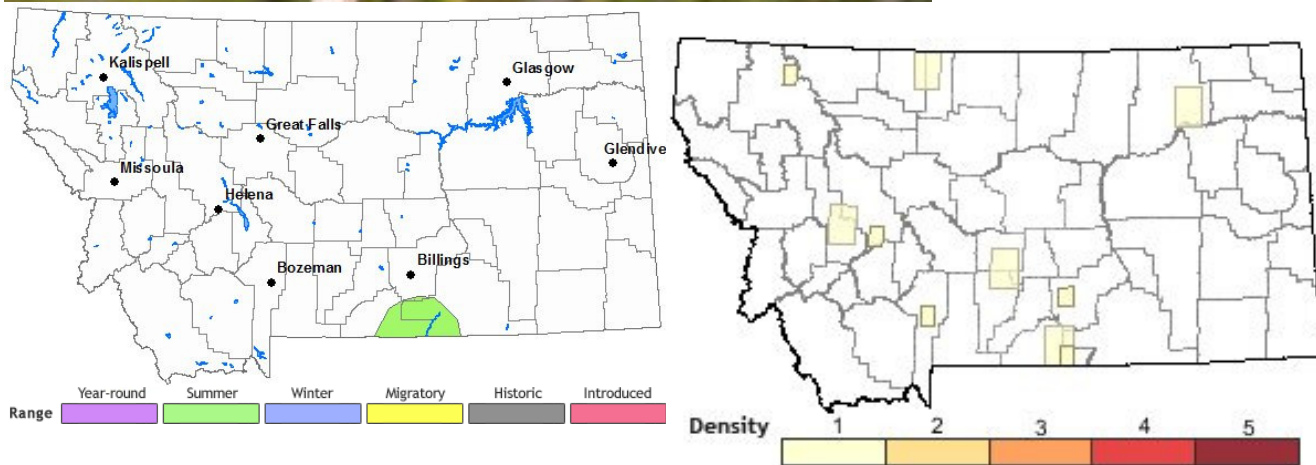
# Black-throated Gray Warbler - *Setophaga nigrescens*



**Accidental Species**

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 10

## General Description

Adult male has black head and throat with white stripes; upperparts gray, with black streaks on back and 2 white wing-bars; underparts white with black streaks along flanks; prominent white areas on tail. Adult female duller with white chin and blackish throat-patch speckled with white.

## Habitat

Species prefers open woodlands with brushy undergrowth.

# Black-throated Green Warbler - *Setophaga virens*



**Accidental Species**

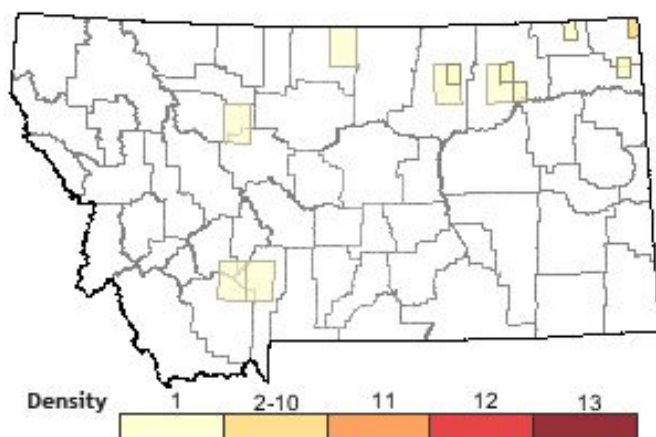
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 21

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## Black-throated Sparrow - *Amphispiza bilineata*



**Accidental Species**

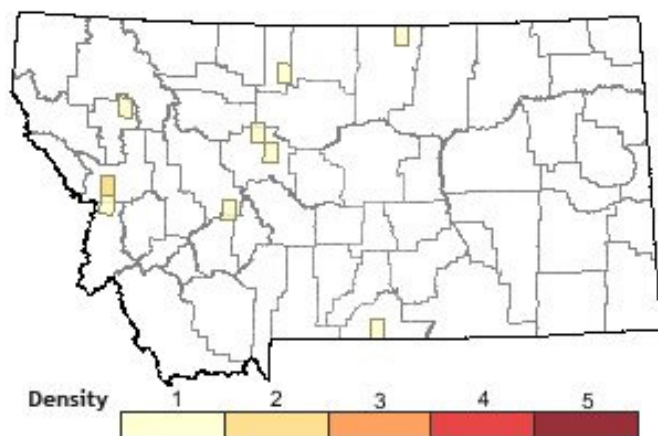
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 10

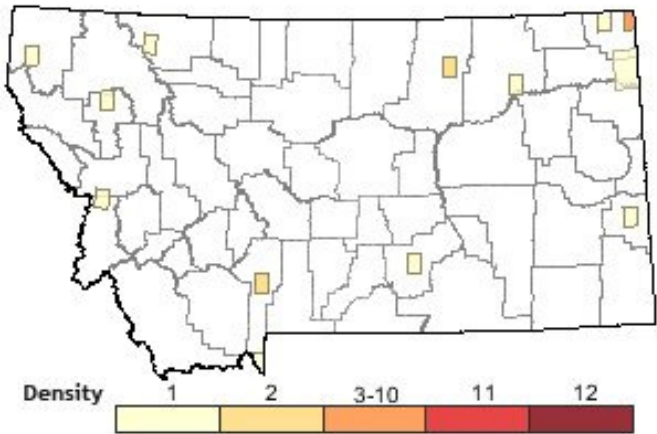
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# Blackburnian Warbler - *Setophaga fusca*



Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: SNA

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



Number of Observations: 24

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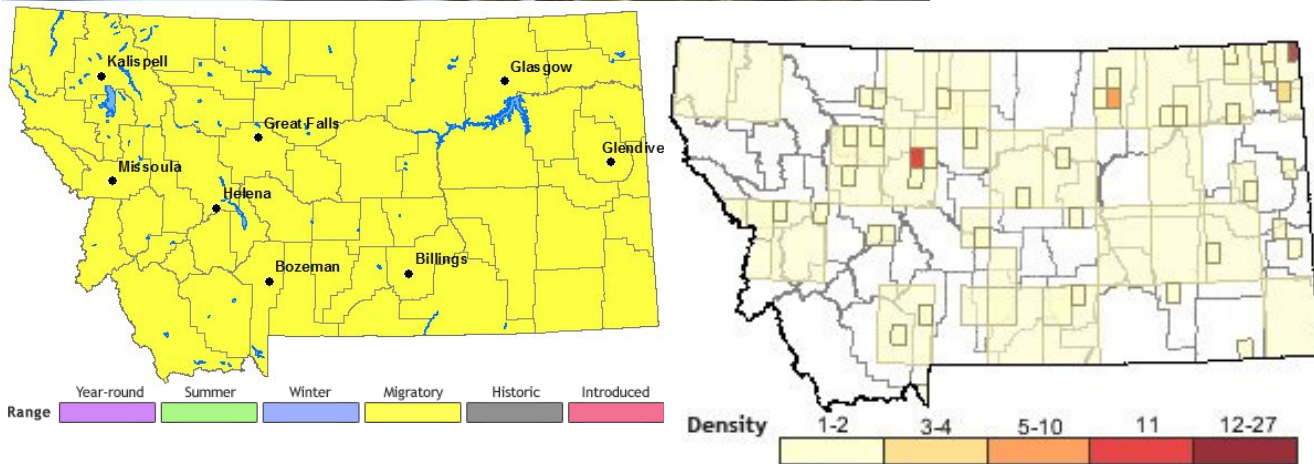


# Blackpoll Warbler - *Setophaga striata*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 142

## General Description

Species sexually dimorphic. Males plumage has black crown while the rest of the head is white. Black malar stripe on under part of neck; underparts usually gray with black streak or white with black streak. Dark wings with two white wing bars, and a dark tail with bold white tail-spots. Legs and feet orange-yellow. Female head crowned light brown with rest of head white. Body light (white or gray) speckled with darker brown or black streaks.

## Habitat

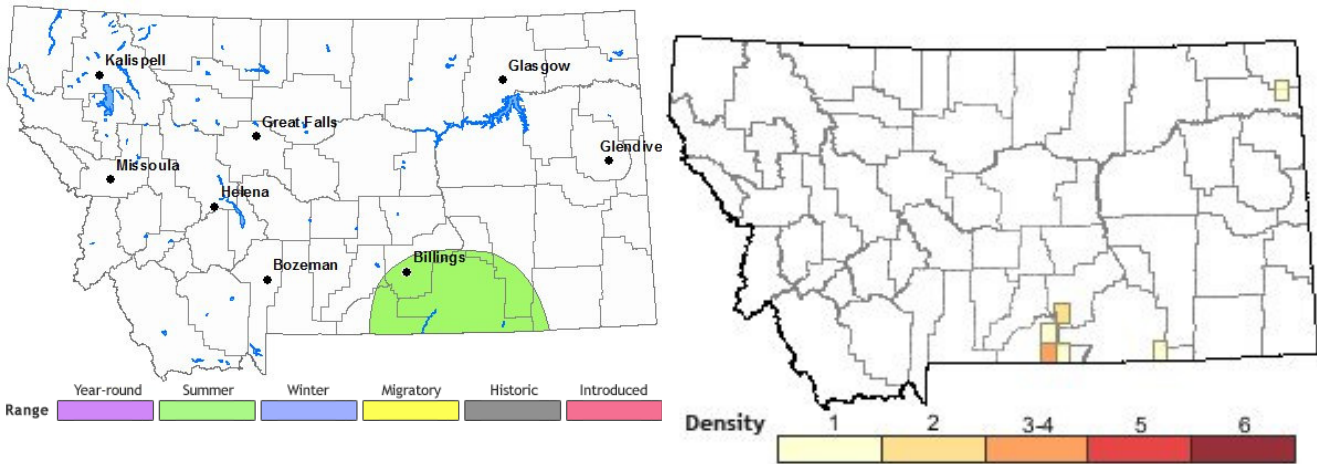
Species found in alder, spruce or willow thickets in riparian areas.

# Blue Grosbeak - *Passerina caerulea*



Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: SNA

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



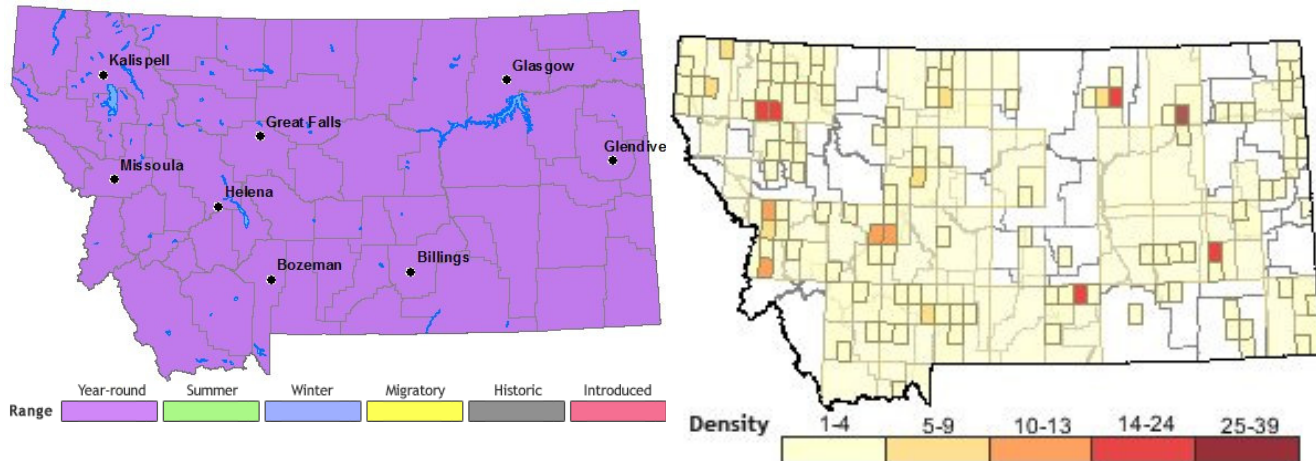
Number of Observations: 10

## Blue Jay - *Cyanocitta cristata*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 641

### General Description

Small, crested jay. Total length 25 to 30 cm; mass 70 to 100g. Sexes are alike in plumage and size. Upperparts are various shades of blue with wings and tail boldly marked with black bars and white types. Head with crest. Underparts grayish white with black U-shaped collar across upper breast and sides of neck joining a black eye-line. Tail is fairly long and graduated (Tarvin and Woolfenden 1999).

### Habitat

Primarily inhabits deciduous, coniferous, and mixed forests and woodlands. Common in towns and residential areas, especially those having large oaks or other mast-producing trees (Tarvin and Woolfenden 1999).



# Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - *Poliioptila caerulea*

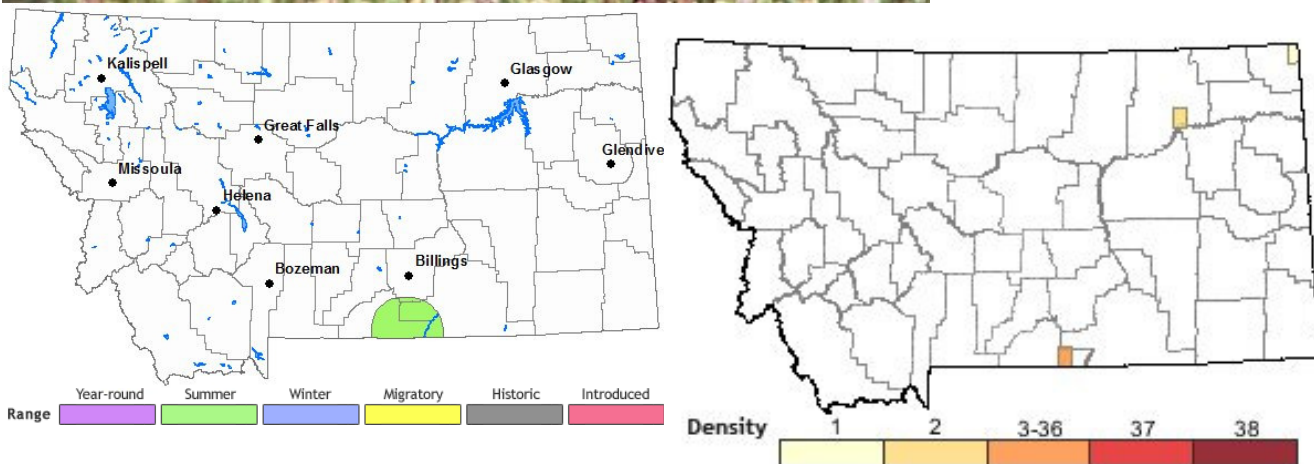


## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S2B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**  
**USFS:** SENSITIVE  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 39

## General Description

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is a very small (10.0 to 11.5 cm in length, 5 to 7 grams in weight), bluish-gray, long-tailed songbird; tail length constitutes about 45% of the total length. The bill is fine-tipped and narrow with a slight lateral flattening at the base, which is surrounded by prominent rictal bristles. Upperparts are medium plumbeous mixed with ultramarine, and there is a prominent white eye-ring. Males in alternate plumage show a narrow black line over the bill and extending over and behind the eyes. Underparts are white, and the tail is black with outer rectrices edged in white. The tail is frequently fanned and waved, showing the white edging. Females appear slightly paler (grayer) overall (Ellison 1992).

## Habitat

Breeding habitat in Montana is restricted to open stands of Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) and limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) with intermixed big sage (*Artemisia tridentata*). All nests found have occurred 0.8 to 1.7 meters above ground in Utah juniper or big sage growing on the lower slopes or bottoms of canyons (P. Hendricks unpublished data).

Throughout their range Blue-gray Gnatcatchers typically inhabit deciduous forest, riparian woodland, open woodland, second-growth, scrub, brushy areas and chaparral in the east, south, and coastal west (Tropical to lower Temperate zones) (AOU 1983. Ellison 1992). In the Great Basin region of the west they also occupy open pine



woodland, where (in Wyoming) they are associated with rosaceous shrubs and rock outcrops (Pavlacky and Anderson 2001).

They nest especially where tracts of brush, scrub, or chaparral are intermixed with taller vegetation (e.g., forest edge, riparian corridors); nesting often occurs near water. Nests are built on branches or forks of trees or shrubs, usually 1 to 25 meters above ground (Harrison 1978) and both sexes participate in nest construction. A broad range of brushy habitats is occupied during winter (Ellison 1992).

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# Blue-headed Vireo - *Vireo solitarius*



**Accidental Species**

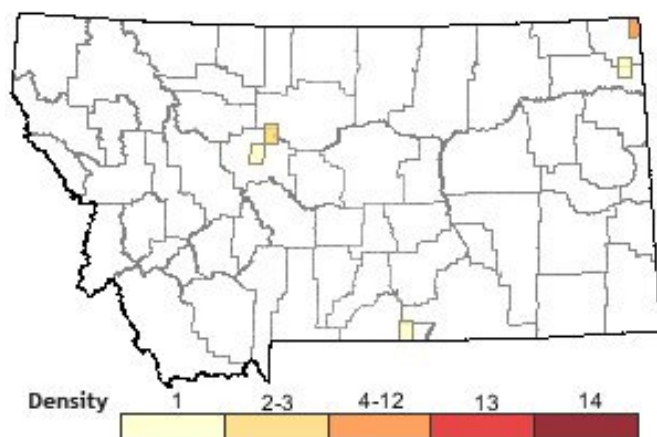
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 18

## General Description

See Heindel (1996) for information on field identification of the solitary vireo complex.

# Blue-winged Teal - *Anas discors*



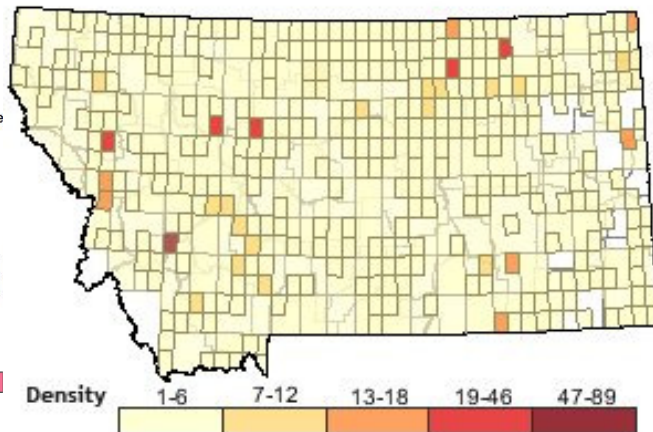
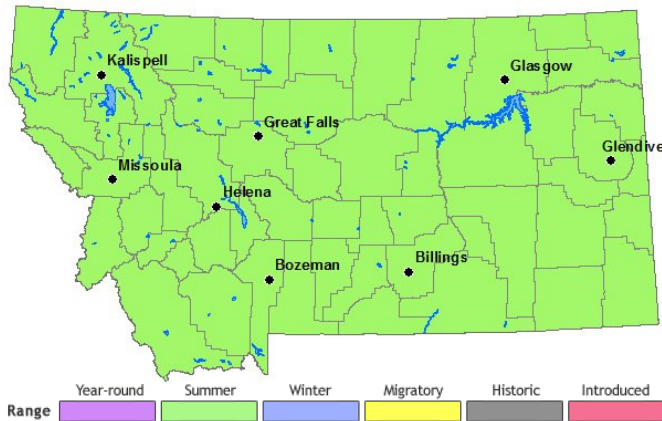
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

## **Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1938

## **General Description**

Species slightly sexually dimorphic. Both sexes have a large chalky blue patch on upper wing; brighter blue in males. Males in breeding plumage have large, gray head with a large white crescent in front of eye; cinnamon under parts heavily speckled with black spots. Female body plumage mottled brown with whitish patch at base of bill; dark line through eye, small whitish crescents above and below eye; and grayish to yellow legs and feet.

## **Habitat**

Main habitat consists of shallow ponds with adequate supplies of aquatic invertebrates. Prefers to nest in grass or herbaceous vegetation and rarely uses brushy nesting cover.

# Blue-winged Warbler - *Vermivora cyanoptera*



**Accidental Species**

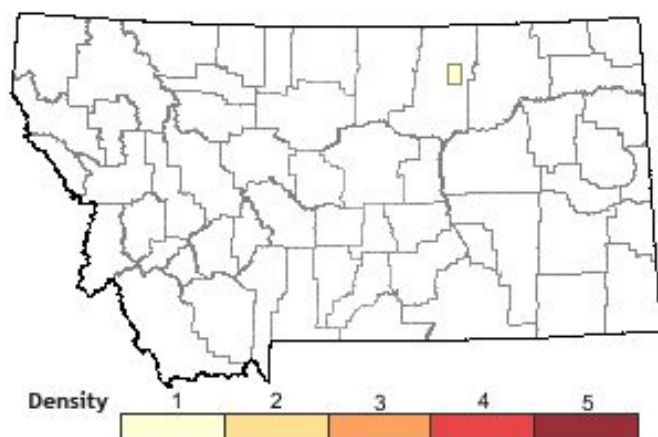
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

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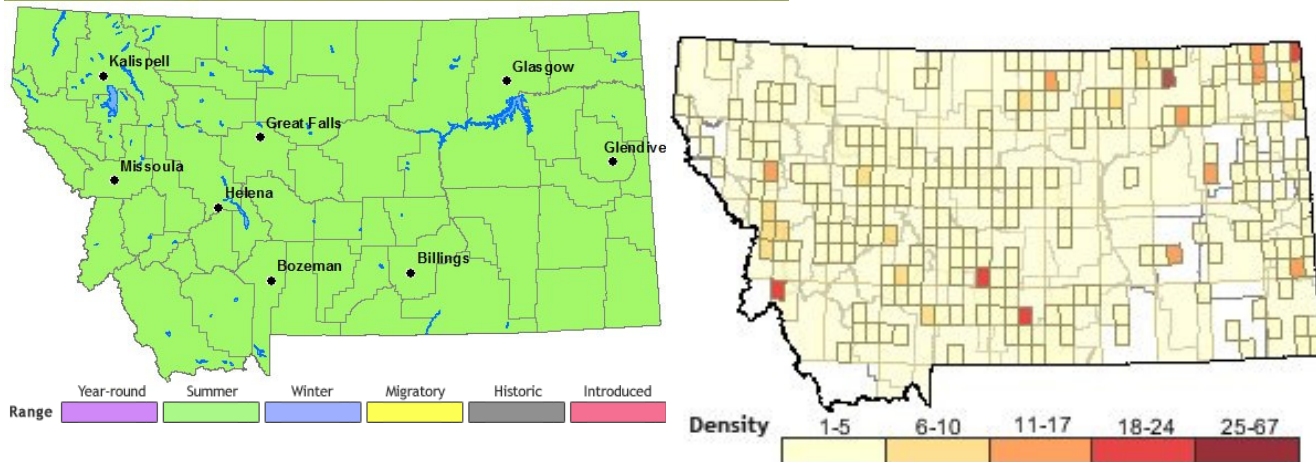
# Bobolink - *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*



## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 1094

## General Description

The Bobolink is approximately 18 centimeters long with a stout, relatively short, pointed bill and sharply pointed tail feathers. The breeding male is black below, with a buff to whitish hind-neck, white scapulars, and white rump; early in spring the male has pale feather edgings. The breeding female is buffy with dark streaks on the back, rump, sides, and head. The juvenile resembles the breeding female but lacks streaks below. Fall adults and immatures resemble breeding female but are darker above and richer buff below. Bobolinks are strongly sexually and seasonally dimorphic with respect to body mass. Mean body weights for breeding females, 29.1 grams; breeding males, 33.9 grams; migrating females, 39.9 grams; migrating males, 51 grams (Martin and Gavin 1995).

## Habitat

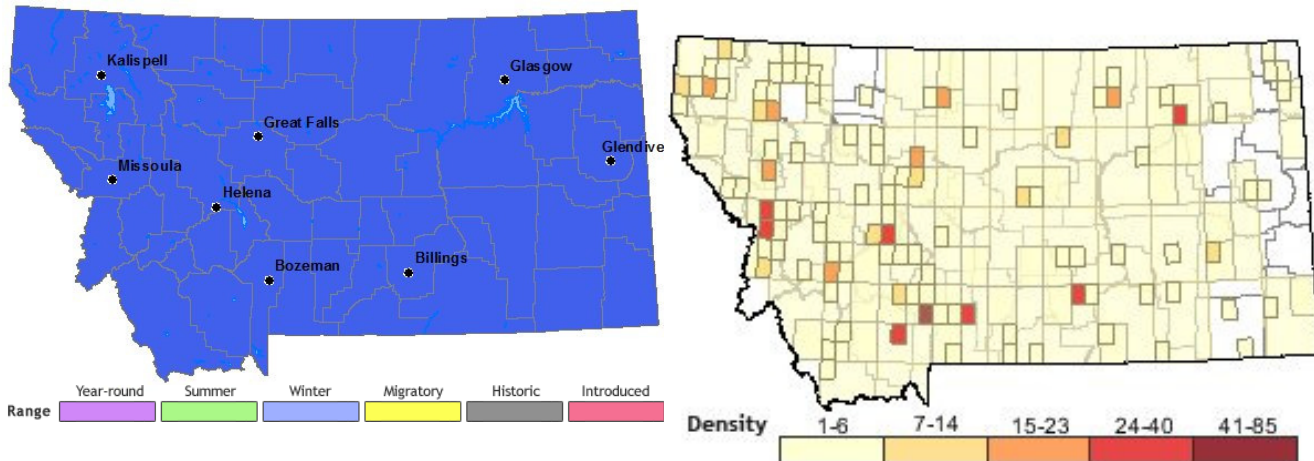
Nests built in tall grass and mixed-grass prairies. Prefers "old" hay fields with high grass-to-legume ratios.

# Bohemian Waxwing - *Bombycilla garrulus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5N

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1233

## General Description

Medium-sized passerine, sexes similar in plumage. Adult overall brownish gray with narrow black mask and black chin, gray breast, cinnamon-tinged forehead and malar area, sharply defined dark cinnamon undertail-coverts, and ornate wing pattern, having red, waxlike tips of secondaries, terminal edges of primaries yellow and white, and secondaries and primary-coverts tipped white, producing yellow and white wing-stripes.

## Habitat

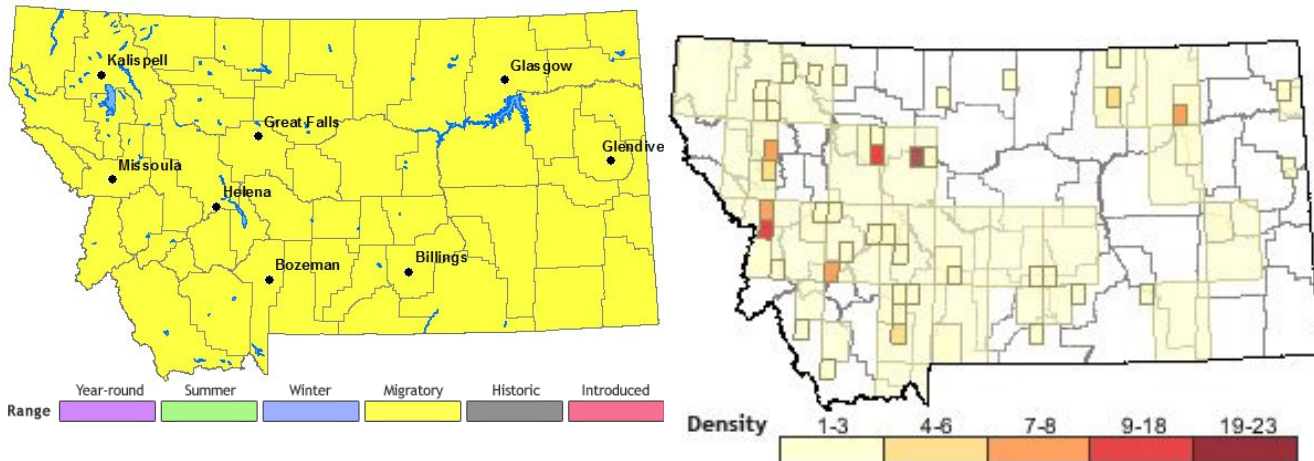
Species prefers open coniferous or mixed-coniferous and deciduous forests. Often found in recently burned areas or near lakes and streams, beaver ponds, and swamps.

# Bonaparte's Gull - *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 220

## General Description

Sexes similar in all plumages. Breeding plumaged adult has entirely black head with narrow white eye-crescents, gray mantle, white tail, white underparts, black bill, and orange-red legs. Nonbreeding adult similar except head entirely white with characteristic dark ear spot behind eye, and gray hindneck.

## Habitat

Bonaparte's Gulls prefer larger lakes, but occur on smaller ponds as well (Skaar 1969).



# Boreal Chickadee - *Poecile hudsonicus*



**Species of Concern**

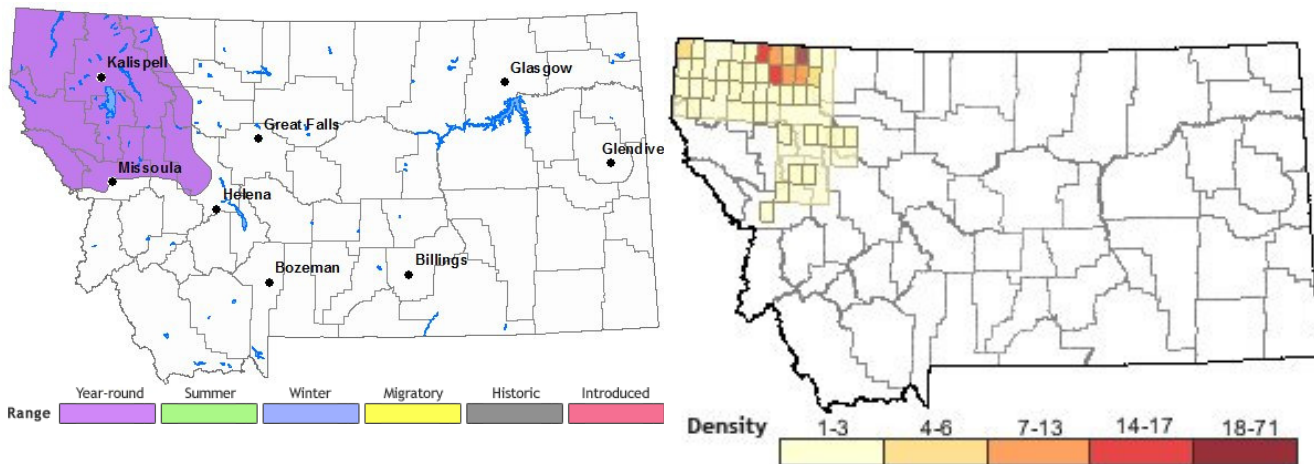
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 237

## General Description

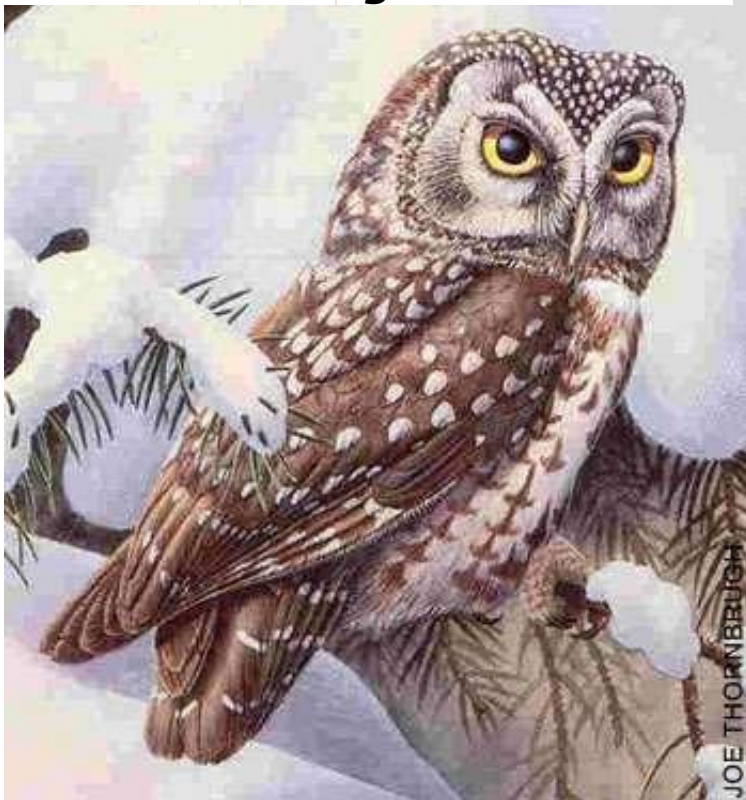
Boreal Chickadees are larger than most other chickadee species. Only the Chestnut-backed Chickadee is of similar size; both species are about 5.5 inches in length. Boreal Chickadees weigh about 10 grams. Both sexes of the species are similar in appearance; they are brownish overall, with a brown cap and back and rufous flanks. The face is white but the side of the neck has more gray, making a distinct two-color look to the face. The tail and wings of the Boreal Chickadee are both plain gray. Juvenile Boreal Chickadees are similar to adults but duller and paler overall (Ficken et al 1996).

## Habitat

No information regarding Boreal Chickadee habitat specific to Montana exists. However, information from other regions where Boreal Chickadees occur indicates the habitat is boreal coniferous and mixed forests, muskeg bogs, in the vicinity of white cedar and hemlock swamps, birches and streamside willows. The species nests in natural cavities or abandoned woodpecker holes, or in a cavity dug by a pair in a rotten tree stub, usually within 1 meter of the ground (but up to 3.7 m).



# Boreal Owl - *Aegolius funereus*



## Potential Species of Concern

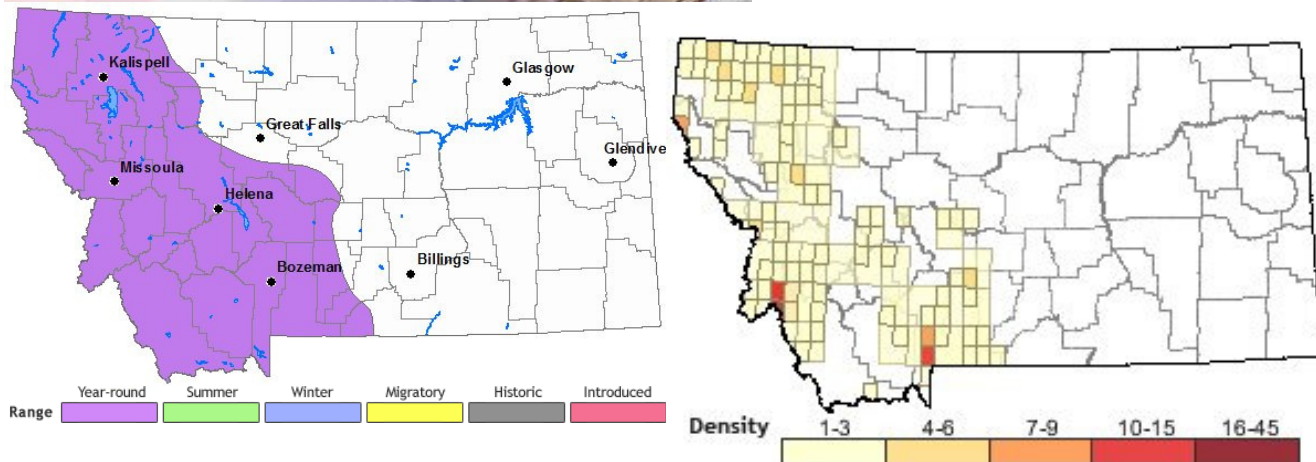
Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: S3S4

### Agency Status

USFWS:

USFS:

BLM:



Number of Observations: 348

## General Description

Round-headed, although head appears rectangular. Eyes yellow, bill yellow/white. Facial disk white, surrounded by distinct black trim. Forehead spotted. Ventrally, white with brown vertical streaks along chest, sides, and flanks. Dorsally, brown with large conspicuous white spots. Juveniles have a dark brown/black facial disk, white forehead, and are light chocolate brown throughout the upper chest, grading into light brown on the belly. By early winter, juveniles resemble adults in plumage. SIZE: nine to 11 inches. WEIGHT: four to six ounces. VOICE: "To, to, to, to" given rapidly and varying in number. Voice is similar to Common Snipe.

## Habitat

High elevation spruce/fir forest, with lodgepole pine sometimes present. Mature spruce/fir forests with multilayered canopies and a highly complex structure, at elevations greater than 1500m with a mosaic of openings or meadows (Hayward 1989). In central Idaho, owls nested in mixed conifer (40%), spruce-fir (18%) Douglas-fir (21%) and aspen stands (21%) (Hayward 1989). One nest in MT was found in a dead broken-topped subalpine fir; nest opening measured 73X64 mm (Holt and Ermatinger 1989). Nests in MT have been exclusively lodgepole pine and spruce fir; no owls were found below 1292m in MT or ID (75% occurred above 1584m) (Hayward and Verner 1994).

## Brambling - *Fringilla montifringilla*



**Accidental Species**

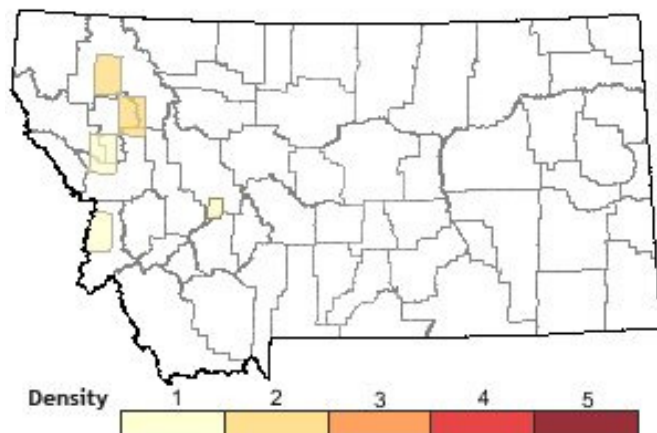
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 7

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# Brant - *Branta bernicla*



**Accidental Species**

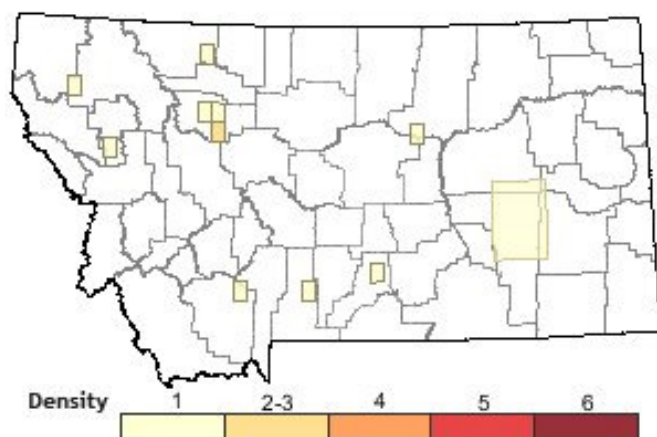
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 13

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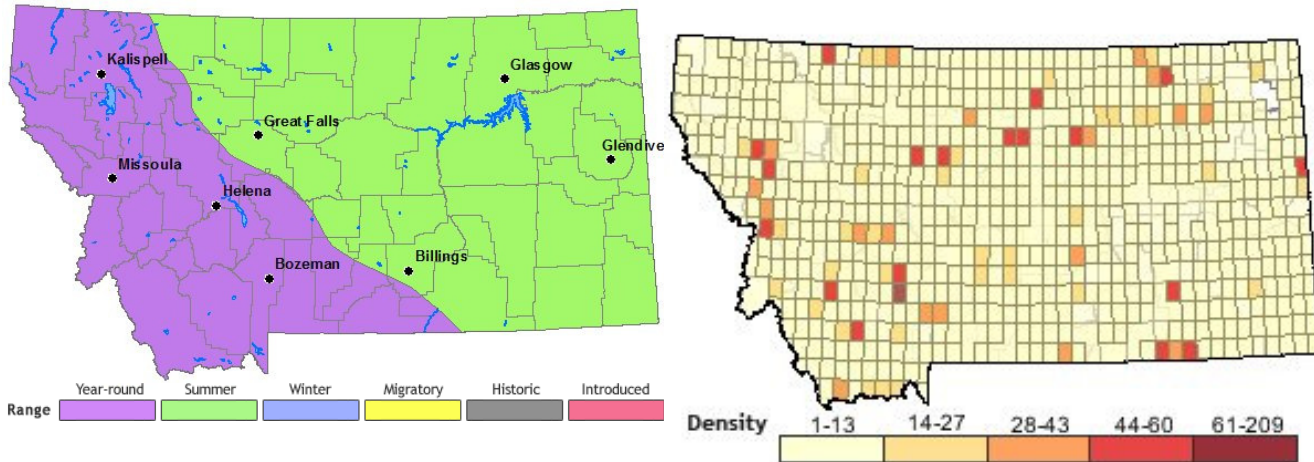


# Brewer's Blackbird - *Euphagus cyanocephalus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 7030

## General Description

Medium-sized blackbird; species sexually dimorphic in color and size. Adult male black with violet iridescence on head and neck in strong light, appearing dusky-brown in duller lighting. Female grayish brown with light violet gloss on head and neck and faint metallic greenish sheen on rest of body plumage. Wings and tail darker and glossier.

## Habitat

Species prefers open, human-modified habitats such as residential lawns, golf courses, cemeteries, mowed urban parks and campus areas. Also found in large clearcut forests and plowed fields.



# Brewer's Sparrow - *Spizella breweri*



## Species of Concern

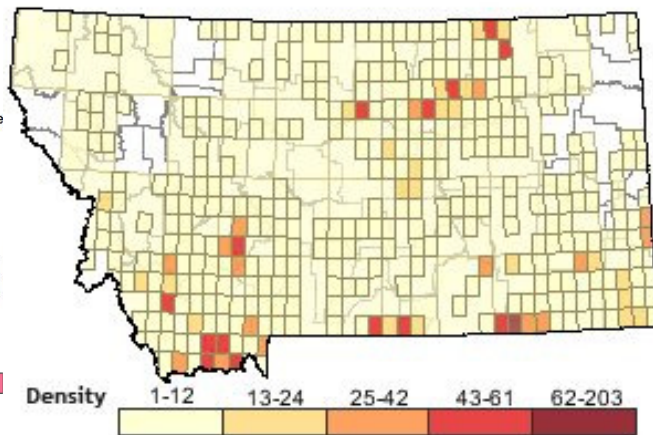
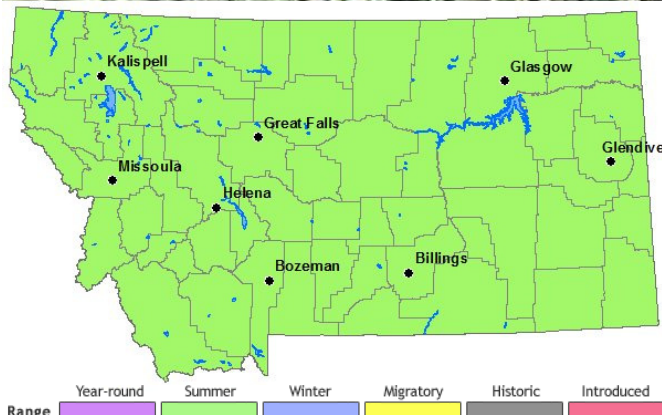
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 4377

## General Description

Slight sexual size dimorphism; sexes otherwise similar in appearance. Finely streaked brown crown; median crown-stripe frequently absent, but sometimes an indistinct one is present. Pale gray supercilia, unmarked lores, and bold, complete white eye-ring. Auricular brown, softly outlined with black and bordered below by grayish white submustachial stripe; black malar streak thin, often indistinct. Underparts dull white, with grayish flanks. Breast unstreaked in adult, although sometimes flanks are streaked. Back and rump brown, the latter streaked with black (Rotenberry et al. 1999).

## Habitat

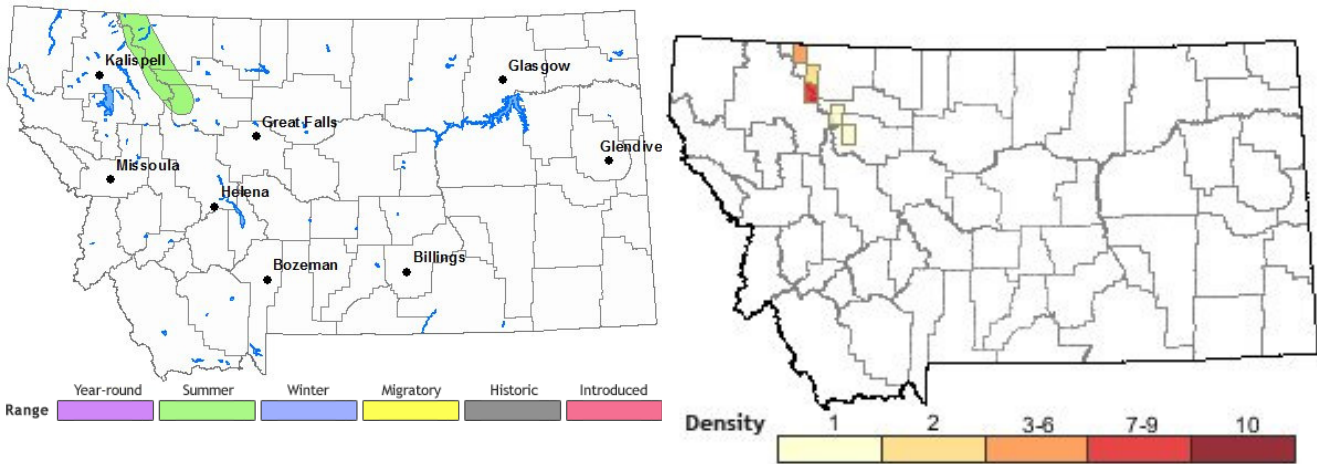
In sagebrush areas in central Montana, Brewer's Sparrows nested in sagebrush averaging 16-inches high. The cover (concealment) for the nest provided by sagebrush is very important (Best 1970).

# Brewer's Sparrow (Timberline) - *Spizella breweri taverneri*



Global Rank: G5T4  
State Rank: SNRTNR

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



Number of Observations: 19

# Broad-tailed Hummingbird - *Selasphorus platycercus*



## Potential Species of Concern

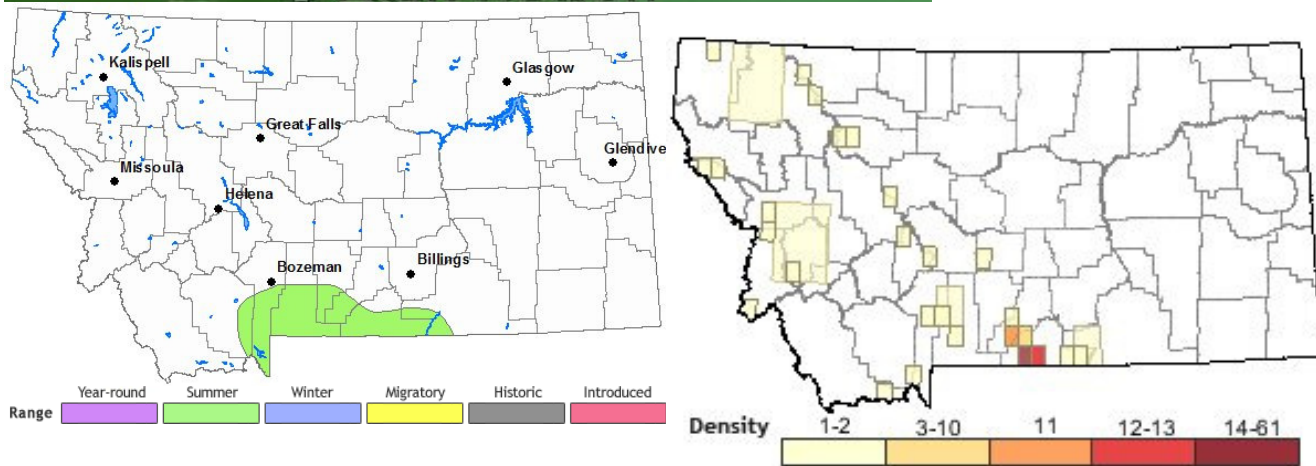
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

### Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 135

## General Description

A hummingbird of medium size, the Broad-tailed Hummingbird is fairly long-bodied, 9 cm (3.5 inches), and has a relatively long wingspan, 13 cm (5.25 inches). The female is generally the larger of the two sexes. The male has a rose-magenta throat patch, or gorget, while the throat of the female is white with varying amounts of speckling of faint bronze, iridescent green, or the rose-magenta feather color typical of the male's gorget. Both sexes have an iridescent green back and a long broad tail, the latter of which extends beyond the wingtips. The base of the outer tail feathers is rufous in color, beyond which a thin line of green is edged in a thicker band of black or purplish-black and terminated in white. The majority of the tail is green. The center of the male's breast is white, with green and buffy flanks, while the flanks of the female are primarily buff or pale cinnamon in color. The male has a line joining the white of the neck to white on the chin via a line at the back of the gorget traveling through the eye-ring. The eye-ring of the female is pale from which a pale white line travels behind the spotted cheeks to join the white throat (Ridgeway as cited in Calder and Calder 1992, Johnsgard 1986, Sibley 2000). The bill is black, iris brown, and feet dusky (Calder and Calder 1992).

Without a true song, vocalizations of the Broad-tailed Hummingbird are generally described as a "chitter, chitter, chitter" or "tiputi, tiputi," produced by the male to intruders into established territory, while females produce a similar sound when protecting nesting or feeding sites (Calder and Calder 1992, Sibley 2000). The long tapered wing tips on the male create a trill during flight. This is especially evident during territorial defense (and mating display) dives, which may descend from 40 feet. This sound is described as similar to the call of a Cedar Waxwing, or as a buzzy, insect-like trill (Johnsgard 1986, Sibley 2000).

## Habitat

No specific habitat information is available for Montana. Reported use in surrounding states (Idaho, Wyoming, and Colorado) includes habitat similar to that found in Montana and may include ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) groves, as well as mountain meadows and pinyon-juniper woodlands (Johnsgard 1986).

Elsewhere, the species is typically found in open woodland, especially pinyon-juniper, pine-oak, and conifer-aspen associations. The Broad-tailed Hummingbird can be found on brushy hillsides in montane scrub and thickets. During migration and winter, they may select open areas in lowlands replete with flowering shrubs. Movement to higher elevations after breeding is not uncommon (Johnsgard 1983).

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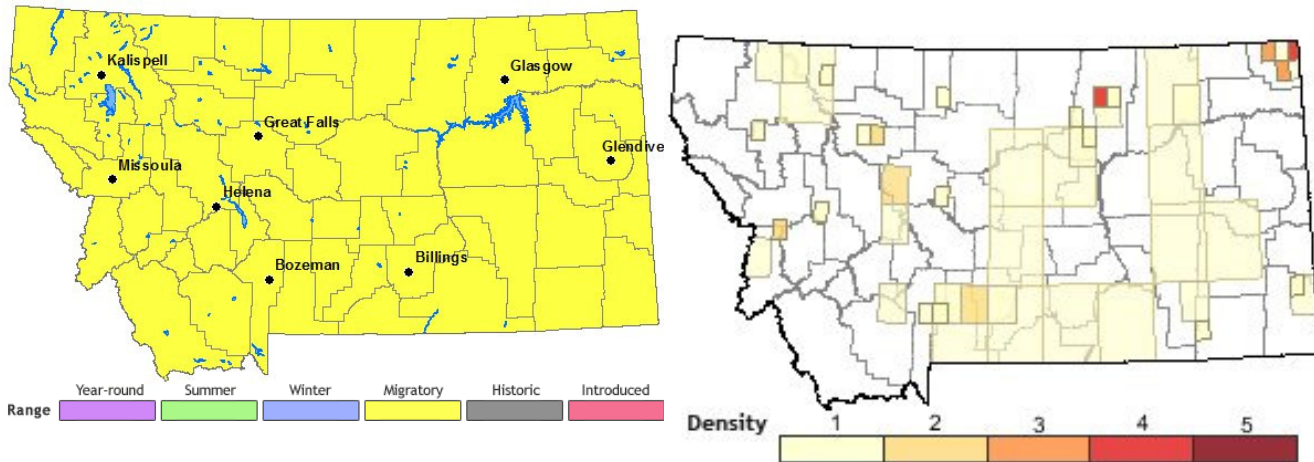


# Broad-winged Hawk - *Buteo platypterus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 61

## General Description

Sexes similar in plumage, but females slightly larger and heavier. Species have two color morphs. Adult light morph has brown back, cinnamon or chestnut barring below, and whitish throat. Tail black with prominent whitish band across the middle; a less visible, narrower white band near base of tail; and a narrow white band along the edge; wing with prominent blackish band along trailing edge.

## Habitat

Nests in continuous deciduous or mixed-deciduous forests, near water and openings. Forages near small openings in the canopy.

# Brown Creeper - *Certhia americana*



## Species of Concern

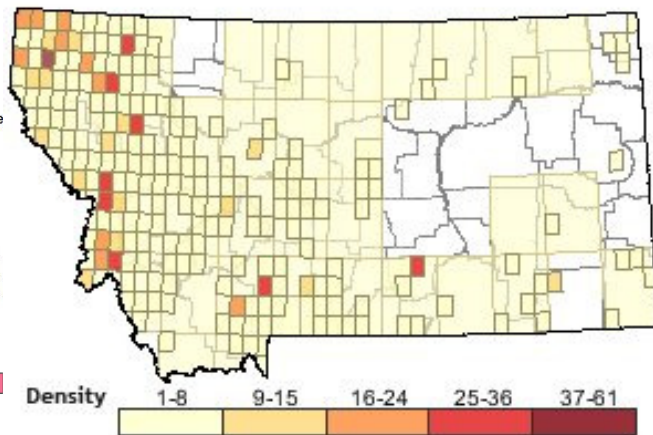
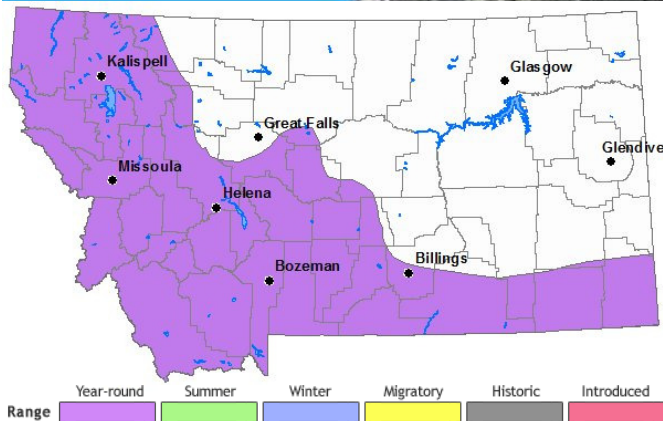
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2002

## General Description

The Brown Creeper is the only tree creeper in North America. It is very small: males 12.0 to 13.5 cm (4.7 to 5.3 inches) total length; females 11.7 to 13.2 cm (4.6 to 5.2 inches) total length. Average body mass for both is 7.2 to 9.9 g. Adult plumage is dark-brown on the upperparts, extensively streaked with dull whitish on head, back, scapulars, and wings; it has a distinctive brownish-white supercilium. Underparts whitish washed with cinnamon distally. The bill is slightly decurved, the tail long and stiff (Hejl et al. 2002b).

## Habitat

Creepers breed in coniferous and mixed coniferous-deciduous forests, preferring mature and old-growth stands with high canopy cover in the western U.S. (Hejl et al. 2002b). Hutto and Young (1999) found that they were more common in mature western redcedar-western hemlock, spruce-fir, and mixed-conifer forests than in pine or younger forests in western Montana and Idaho. They winter in the same habitats used for breeding but also use a wider diversity of forest types, including uplands dominated by deciduous trees, urban and suburban parks and residential areas that contain large trees, and riparian cottonwoods. The consistent factor appears to be the need for large trees and snags (dead trees) for foraging and nesting microsites. Brown Creepers are the only North American birds that build their nests behind loose pieces of bark on tree trunks. They prefer to nest in large dead or

dying trees within dense forest stands, placing their nests from <1 m to >20 m above the ground (Hejl et al. 2002b). For 19 nests in mixed conifer forests of western Montana and east-central Idaho, 5 were in subalpine fir, 5 in Douglas-fir, 4 in Engelmann spruce, 3 in lodgepole pine, and 2 in western larch; all nest trees were dead and all but one in unlogged forest stands (Hejl et al. 2002b).

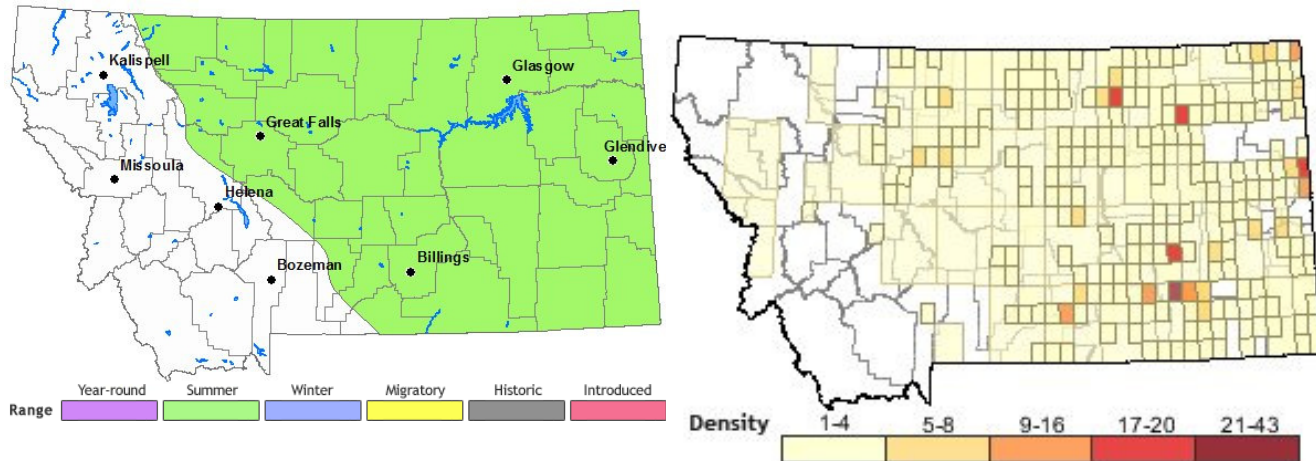
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## Brown Thrasher - *Toxostoma rufum*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 861

### General Description

The Brown Thrasher is a large, boldly patterned thrasher, about 235 to 305 mm long and up to 89 g body mass. Adults have rufous upperparts; whitish underparts coarsely streaked with blackish; long, rufous tail, 2 whitish wing-bars; medium-length, straightish bill; and a yellowish eye. Legs are long, and heavy characteristic of a ground foraging bird. Sexes are alike in size and coloration (Cavitt and Haas 2000).

### Habitat

Inhabits thickets and hedgerows in deciduous forest clearings and forest edge in the eastern U.S. Farther west, within the Great Plains, it commonly breeds in fence-rows, shelterbelts, and woody draws (Cavitt and Haas 2000).

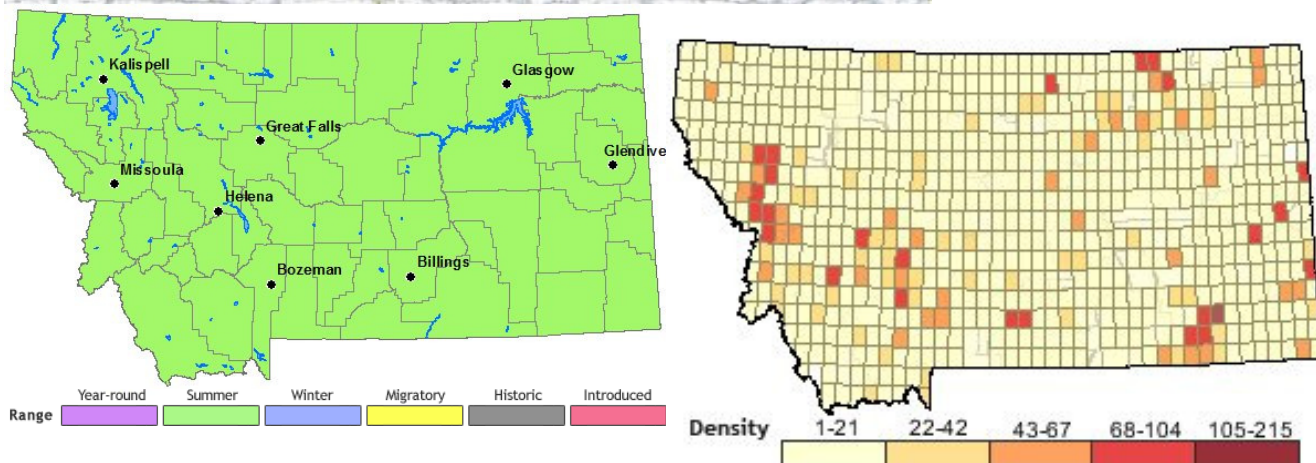


# Brown-headed Cowbird - *Molothrus ater*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 14935

## General Description

Length: 19 cm; heavy conical bill and a brown iris; walks with the squared tail uptilted. Adult male has a plain brown head, neck, and upper chest, with the rest of the plumage glossy greenish black. Adult female is gray-brown above, paler below. Juvenile is paler above, heavily streaked below, with pale edgings on the feathers on the back; young males molting to adult plumage are patchy black, brown, and buff; mass of adult male is 39 to 57 g, female is smaller. EGGS: vary from pure white to bluish-white; entire egg is covered with chocolate brown or yellowish-tan specks or blotches, which are often heaviest around the larger end (Friedmann 1929). Eggs average 21.5 by 16.4 mm (Bent 1958), with a mass of 3.2 to 3.4 g (Walkinshaw 1983).

## Habitat

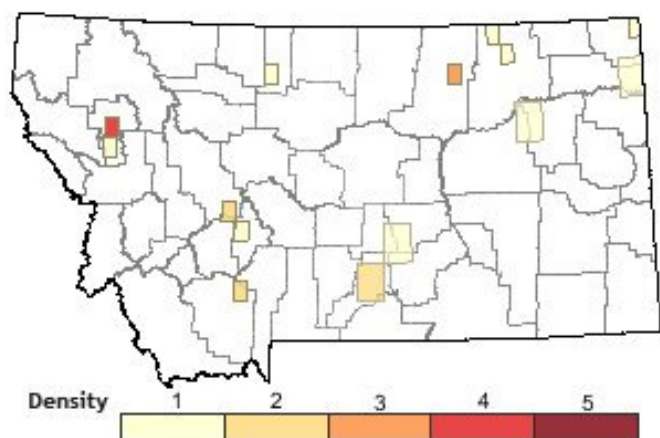
Species prefers areas with low or scattered trees among grassland vegetation—woodland edges, brushy thickets, prairies, fields, pastures, orchards, or even residential areas.

## Buff-breasted Sandpiper - *Tryngites subruficollis*



**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 22

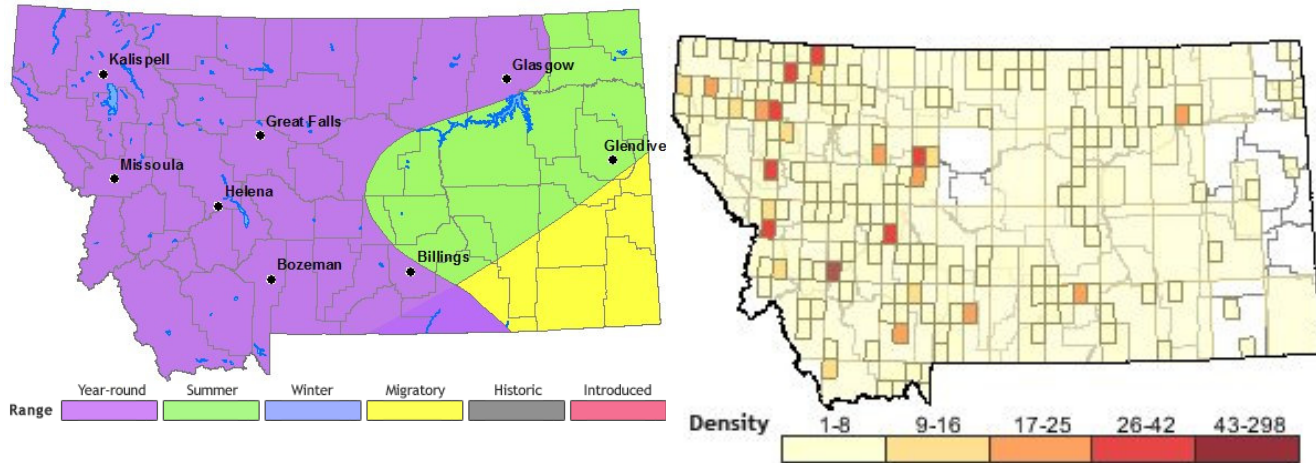
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# Bufflehead - *Bucephala albeola*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1744

## General Description

Small diving duck. Males 35 to 40 cm, 450 g; females 32 to 35 cm, 325 g. Compact with short neck; short and narrow gray bill. Strong sexual dimorphism both in size and color. Breeding males: head black, glossed green and purple, with large white patch from ear-coverts across nape; back black; white underparts; wings black with large white patch occupying most of secondaries and coverts. Females: mostly dark brown on head, back and wings; pale gray on underparts. They show a white ear patch and a smaller white wing patch than males. Males in eclipse plumage are essentially female-like but with larger white patches on the wings and face (Gauthier 1993).

## Habitat

Freshwater, permanent ponds with no outlet or only seasonal outflow, and small lakes. Large lakes are avoided except by molting flocks (Gauthier 1993). In general, the species is restricted to lakes and ponds (Skaar 1969).

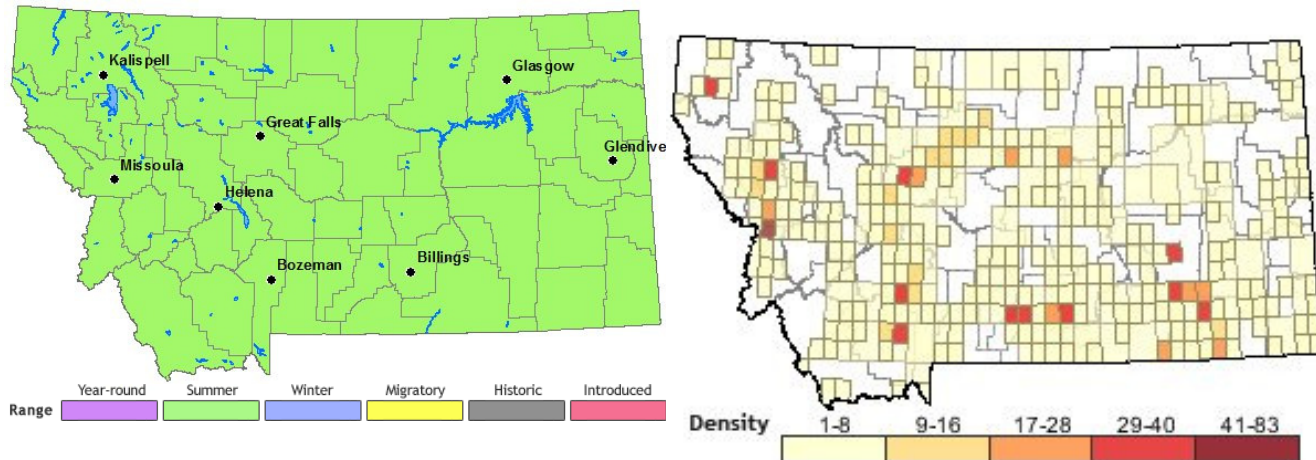


# Bullock's Oriole - *Icterus bullockii*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1989

## General Description

Older males have bright black and orange-yellow plumage. The crown, nape, back, and scapulars being black; the remainder of the head and underparts are orange-yellow in color. The younger males resemble females, which are grayish-green and yellow, with black on the throat (Rising and Williams 1999).

## Habitat

Prefers open woodland areas, especially riparian (river) woodlands with large cottonwoods, sycamores, and willows. During spring and fall migration it is found in a variety of open woodland and urban parklands and tall shrubland (Rising and Williams 1999).



# Burrowing Owl - *Athene cunicularia*

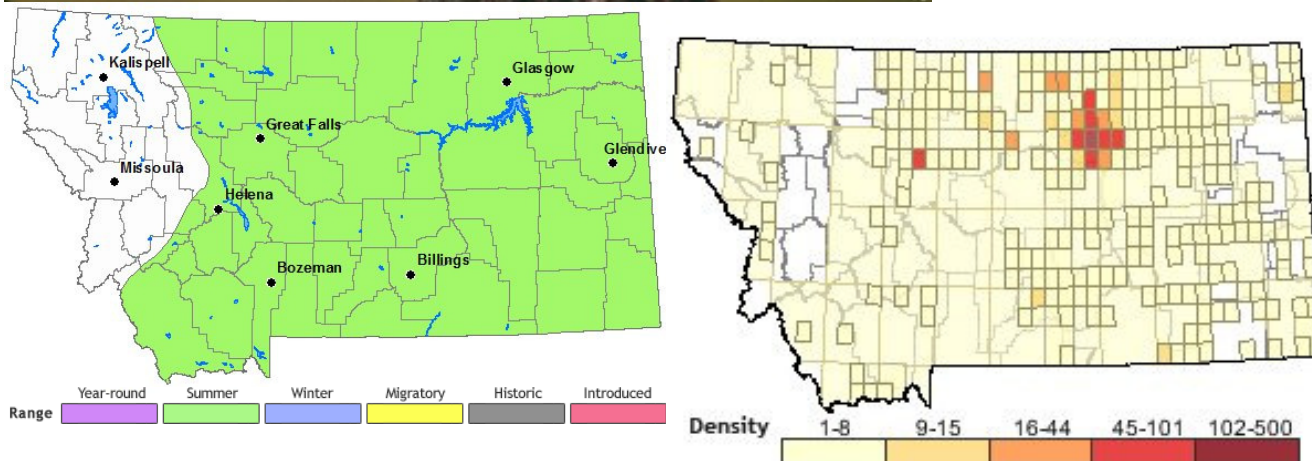


## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**  
**USFS:** SENSITIVE  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 3060

## General Description

Burrowing Owls are probably most distinguishable because of their ground-dwelling behavior. They may also be identified by their long legs, round, tuft-less head, and bright yellow eyes. The distinct oval facial ruff is framed by a buffy white eyebrow-to-malar stripe near the bill (Haug et al. 1993). The primary feathers of their relatively long, rounded wings are brown with buffy-white barring. Their tail is short and also decorated with this same brown with buffy-white barring. The back, scapulars, and crown are brown with buffy-white spotting (Haug et al. 1993). The underparts are a buffy-white with broad brown barring, while the throat and undertail coverts are white (Haug et al. 1993). The bill is pale, cream colored to yellowish-white or greenish-yellow (Haug et al. 1993). As with other owl species, females may be darker than males, especially in worn plumage. Juveniles are similar to the adults, except the head is plain brown, the upper chest has a dark tan band, and the lower chest and belly are light-to-white in color.

This owl averages 24 cm (9.5 inches) long with a wingspan of 53 cm (21 inches), and a weight of approximately 155 grams (5 ounces) (Sibley 2000).

The male call is described as a high nasal trumpeting "coo-coo", which may be answered by the female with a short clear "eeep" or a harsh rasping "kssh" (Sibley 2000). A rasping alarm call is made by both sexes. Vocalizations heard year round include short, sharp husky "chuk" or a series of barking notes, with a rasping scream described as "kwee-ch-ch-ch-ch" or "cheee-twikit-twik" (Sibley 2000).

## Habitat

Burrowing Owls are found in open grasslands, where abandoned burrows dug by mammals such as ground squirrels (*Spermophilus* spp.), prairie dogs (*Cynomys* spp.) and Badgers (*Taxidea taxus*) are available. Black-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) and Richardson's Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus richardsonii*) colonies provide the primary and secondary habitat for Burrowing Owls in the state (Klute et al. 2003). The burrows may be enlarged or

modified, making them more suitable. Burrowing Owls spend much time on the ground or on low perches such as fence posts or dirt mounds.

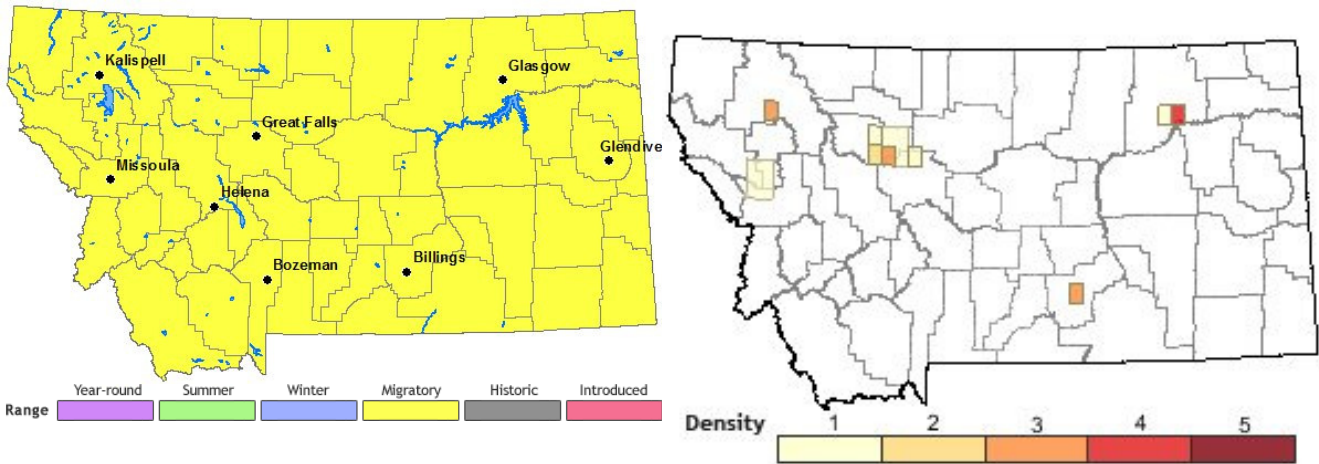
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# Cackling Goose - *Branta hutchinsii*



Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: SNA

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



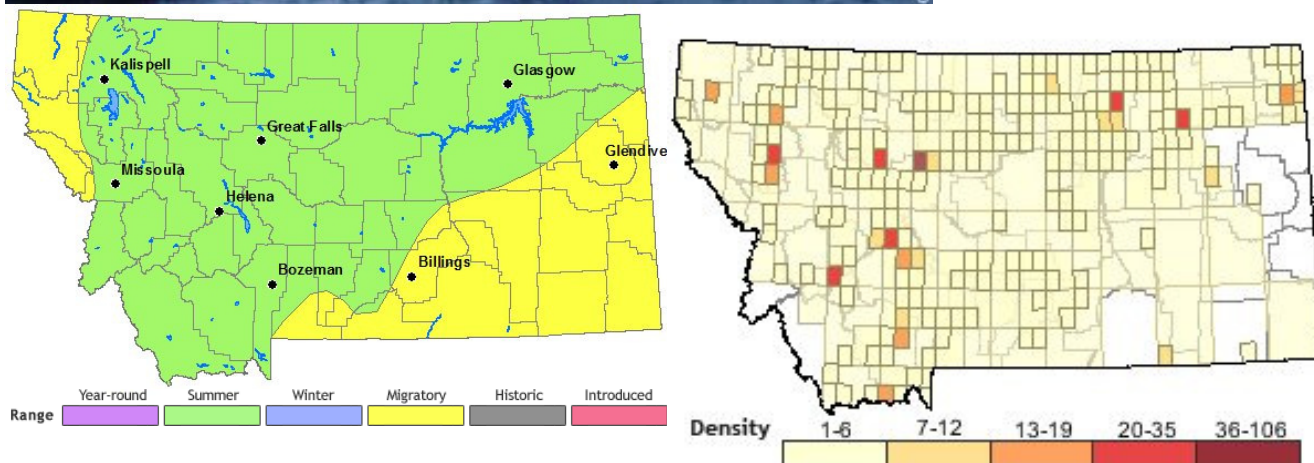
Number of Observations: 20

# California Gull - *Larus californicus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1425

## General Description

Medium-sized white-headed gull; male slightly larger than female. Definitive plumage, combination of dark gray mantle, yellow green legs, and black and red spots on gonys (enlarged part of lower mandible where left and right halves come together) distinguish this species from all other gulls in its summer range.

## Habitat

In the Bozeman area, the California Gull prefers larger lakes, but also occurs on ponds and rivers, especially in spring and fall (Skaar 1969). In Montana, colonies are typically located on islands (Rothweiler 1960). Nests are located either among dried vegetation or on bare ground (Rothweiler 1960)



## California Quail - *Callipepla californica*



**Exotic Species (not native to Montana)**

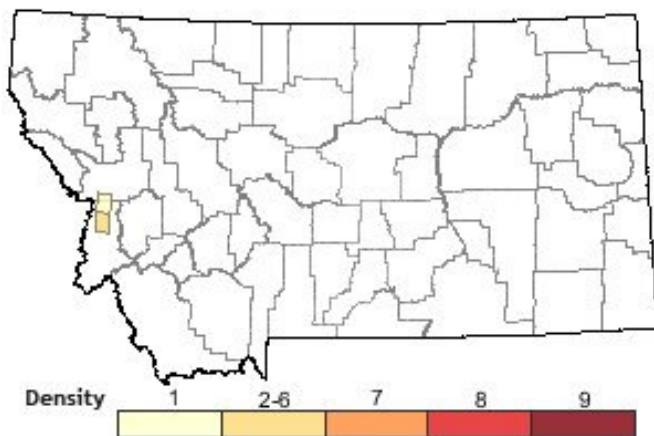
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 7

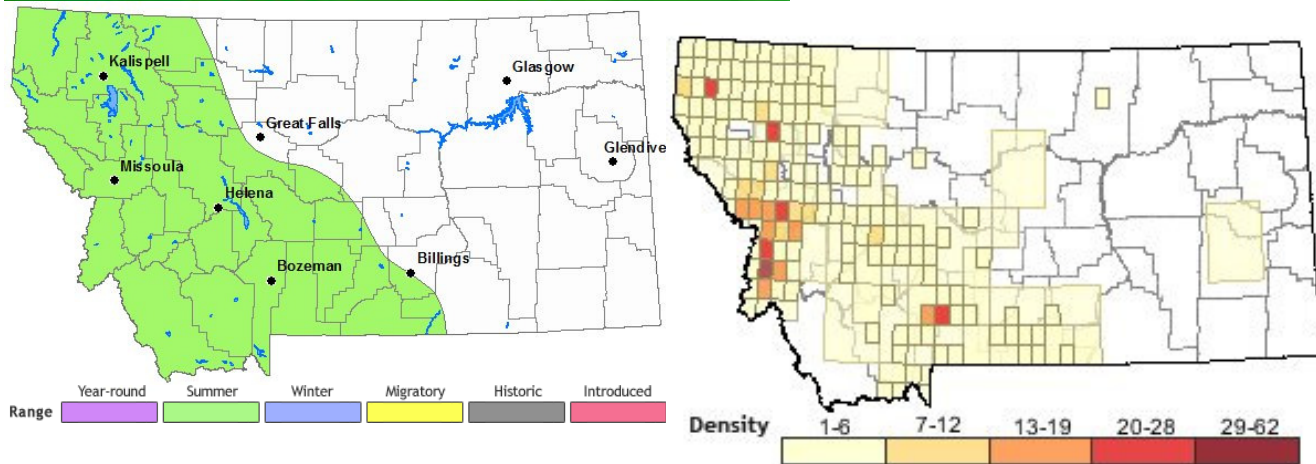
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# Calliope Hummingbird - *Selasphorus calliope*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1086

## General Description

The Calliope Hummingbird is the smallest North American breeding bird. The adult male is the only North American hummingbird whose iridescent gorget is divided into separate magenta-red rays, which can be elevated in elegant star-burst display against the white background of the throat. The female's throat is white, sometimes with a few small spots of the male's gorget color. It differs from Rufous and Allen's hummingbirds in having a shorter bill and noticeably shorter tail, very little rufous in tail, often not visible in field; and a wash of pale buff across the breast rather than concentration of such color on sides and flanks (Calder and Calder 1994).

## Habitat

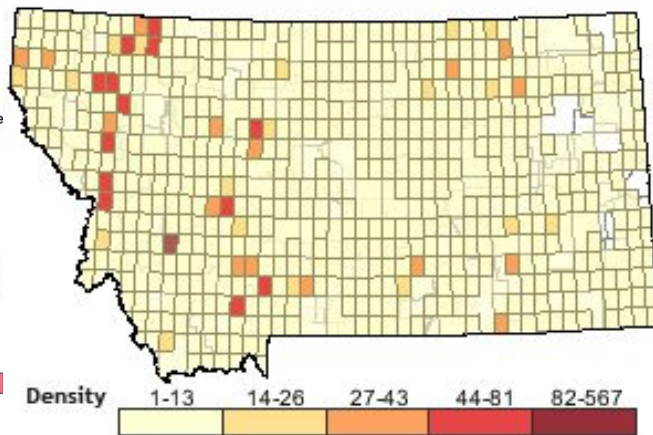
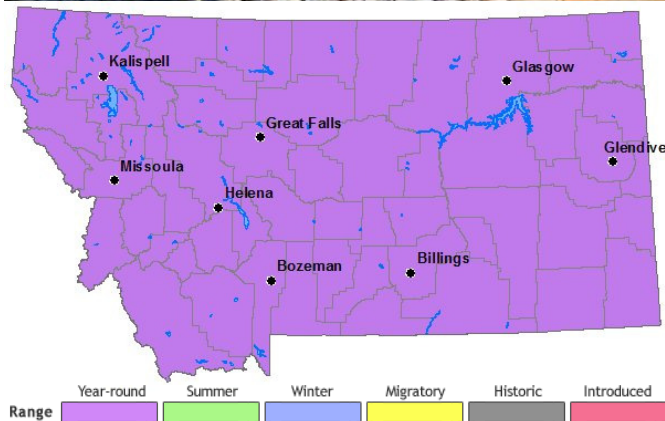
Survives and breeds in northwestern montane environments (Calder and Calder 1993). In Bozeman area, occurs on thickety hillsides and in forest openings to moderate elevations in the mountains (Skaar 1969).

# Canada Goose - *Branta canadensis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 6723

## General Description

Individuals vary in size geographically with the smallest individuals in the north; average length is 64 to 117 cm. Individuals have a black head and a neck marked with a broad white chin strap extending from ear to ear, plain large dark wings, and a black tail with a U-shaped white band on the rump.

## Habitat

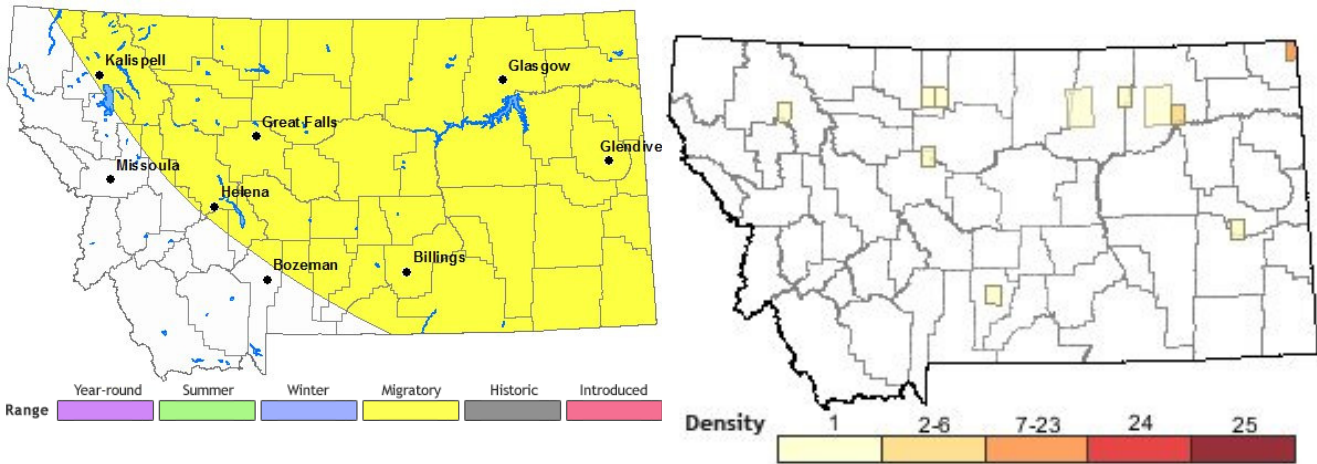
On the lower Yellowstone River, broods are reared on island grasslands and meadows along the river. Dense brush is used when not feeding. In north-central Montana, Canada Geese nested on islands 76%, in sagebrush 6%, in meadows 18%, and on reservoirs of 3.7 to 33.3 acres (McCarthy 1973).

# Canada Warbler - *Cardellina canadensis*



Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: SNA

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



Number of Observations: 38

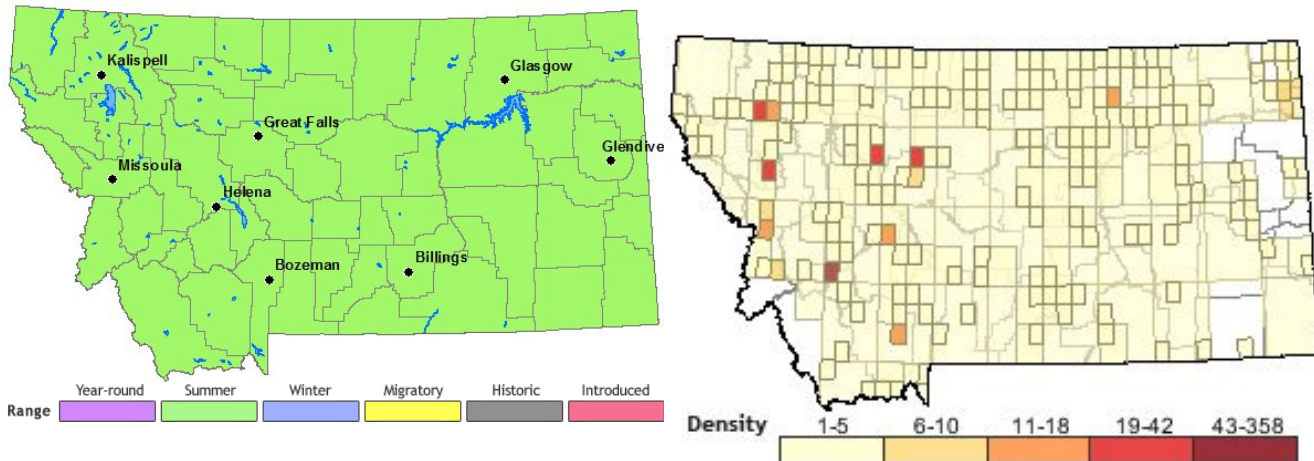


# Canvasback - *Aythya valisineria*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1309

## General Description

An exclusively North American species. Gregarious and highly visible during the nonbreeding season. The Canvasback is a large diving duck. Male (51 to 56 cm/863 to 1589 g) slightly larger than female (48 to 52 cm/908 to 1543 g). Thin wedge-shaped head sloping upward from tip of long bill to back of crown and long, stout neck, head held erect. Adult male: rich chestnut red head and neck, black chest, white back and long sloping, blackish bill. Adult female: forehead, crown, nape and upper neck light brown to brownish olive; cheeks, chin and throat whitish buff; lower neck gray-brown, with reddish-brown cast. Mantle and scapulars light gray, lower back and rump grayish; belly white to grayish white; bill nearly black (Mowbray 2002).

## Habitat

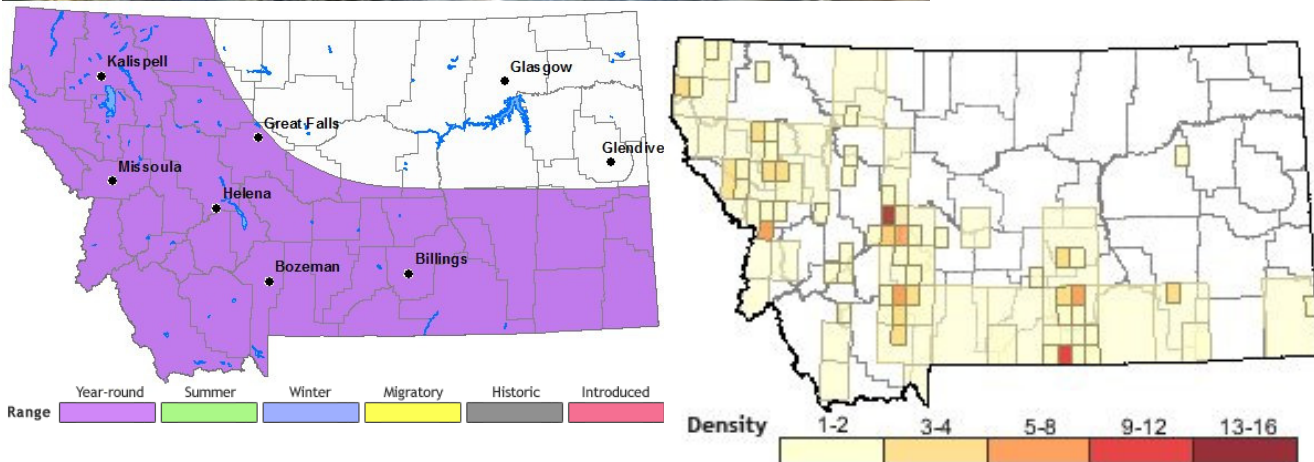
Breeds in small lakes, deep-water marshes, sheltered bays of large fresh water and alkali lakes, permanent and semi permanent ponds, sloughs, potholes, and shallow river impoundments. In aspen parklands and mixed-grass prairie, prefers wetlands bordered by dense emergent vegetation. In boreal forest, utilizes open marshes (Mowbray 2002).

# Canyon Wren - *Catherpes mexicanus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 212

## General Description

Small wren, sexes alike. Upperparts rusty brown with a grayish head and back, having varying amounts of white spotting dorsally. The lower face, throat, and upper breast white. The belly chestnut, with varying amount of black and white speckling. Bright rusty rufous tail barred with black, with no terminal black band. Head dorsoventrally flattened, with a long, slender, slightly decurved bill. Distinguished from Rock Wren by a white breast, contrasting sharply with the lower belly (Jones and Dieni 1995).

## Habitat

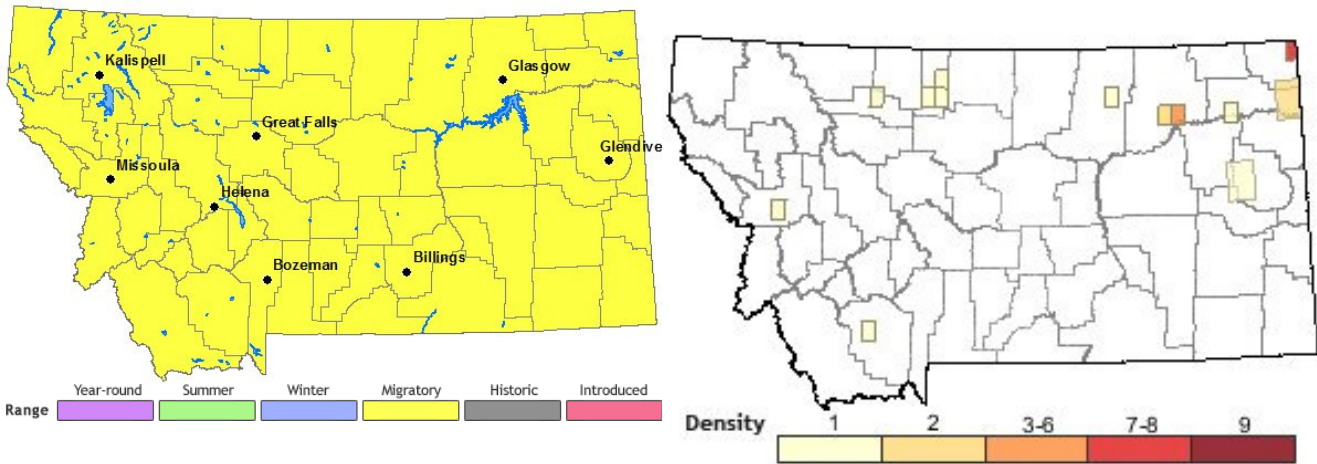
Few terrestrial birds are as restricted to rocky cliffs or outcrops as this one. Limited to cliffs, steep-sided canyons, rocky outcrops, and boulder piles, usually in arid regions. Inhabits the same territories year-round (Jones and Dieni 1995).

# Cape May Warbler - *Setophaga tigrina*



Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: SNA

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



Number of Observations: 27

# Carolina Wren - *Thryothorus ludovicianus*



**Accidental Species**

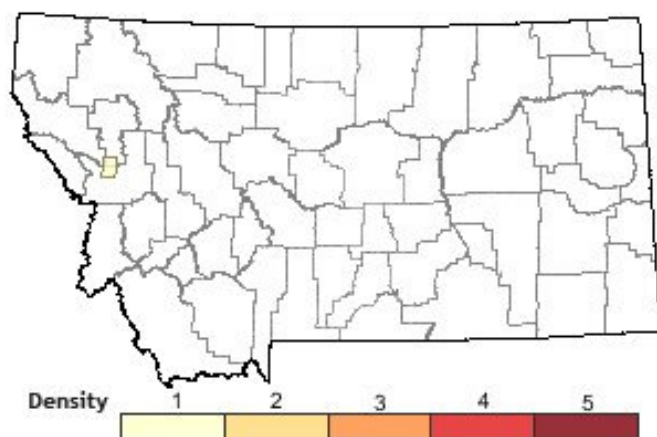
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

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# Caspian Tern - *Hydroprogne caspia*



## Species of Concern

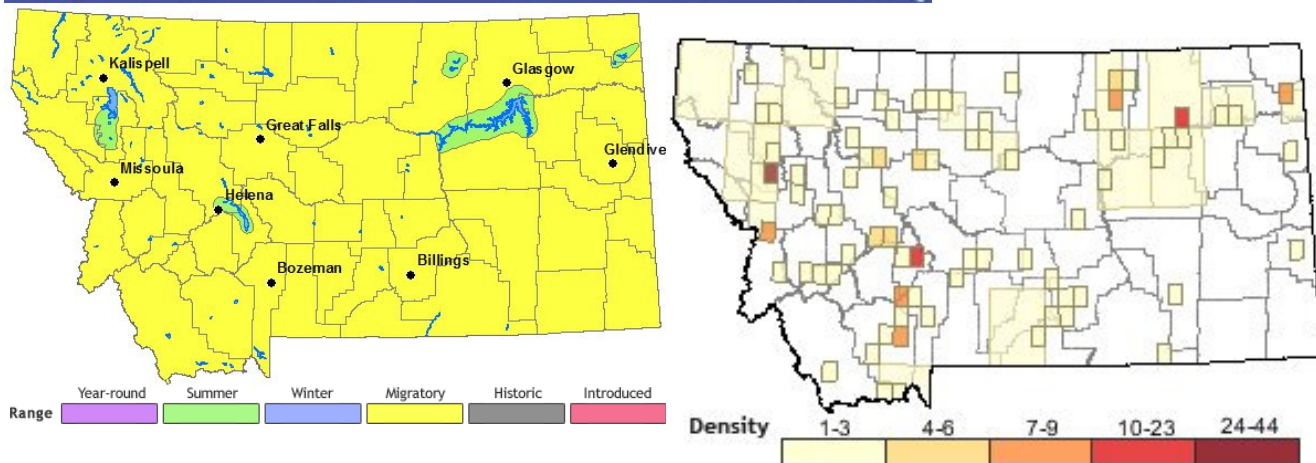
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S2B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 310

## General Description

Gull-like in appearance, the Caspian Tern is the largest tern in North America. It has pale gray upperparts, and a white throat, breast, flanks, rump and tail. The all-black cap on the mature adults extends forward to below the eye. Males and females are of like plumage, though the males average slightly larger (Sibley 2000). This species is generally 47 to 54 cm long, with a wingspan of approximately 127 cm. The Caspian Tern has a dark red, stout, rather massive bill, with a dark gray colored tip. The bill on juvenile birds is more orange-red and their upperparts are paler than on the adults.

The vocalization of this species is described as a deep, harsh, heron-like scream "aaayayaum" (Sibley 2000). Several other vocalizations are described as the contact, alarm, gakkering, fish (advertising), and female begging calls (Cuthbert and Wires 1999).

## Habitat

In Montana, the Caspian Tern prefers islands within large lakes or reservoirs, where sandy or stony beaches are used for nesting (Johnsgard 1986). The species has also been noted to utilize rivers, though nesting in this habitat is not documented (Johnsgard 1986, Casey 2000).

# Cassin's Finch - *Haemorhous cassinii*



## Species of Concern

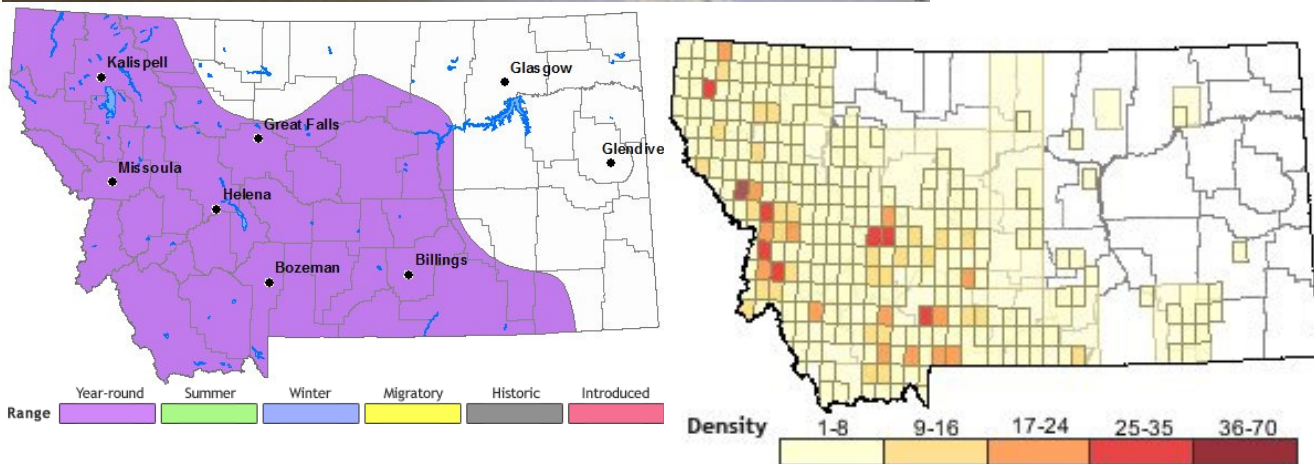
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2576

## General Description

Cassin's Finch is the largest of the North American *Carpodacus* finches (includes Purple Finch and House Finch); length is 14.5-15.5 cm (5.7-6.1 inches). Adults are sexually dimorphic in plumage traits. Adult males have rose-red coloration on the head throat and upper breast, the crown is bright pinkish-red contrasting with the paler nape and back; rump and upper tail coverts are dull rose-pink and streaked with brown. The lower breast and belly appear generally whitish, the undertail coverts with fine brown streaks. Females have an overall brownish plumage; the head has supercilium and submoustacial regions with fine brown streaks, back and rump dusky and streaked with brown, the throat, breast and flanks whitish with crisp brown streaks. Juneniles and immatures resemble females

## Habitat

Cassin's Finches occur in every major forest type and timber-harvest regime in Montana, including riparian cottonwood, but are especially common in ponderosa pine and postfire forests; they occur less often in lodgepole pine, sagebrush, and grassland (Manuwal 1983a, Hutto and Young 1999). They often visit bird feeders and occasionally venture into alpine terrain (Johnson 1966, Pattie and Verbek 1966).

# Cassin's Kingbird - *Tyrannus vociferans*



## Potential Species of Concern

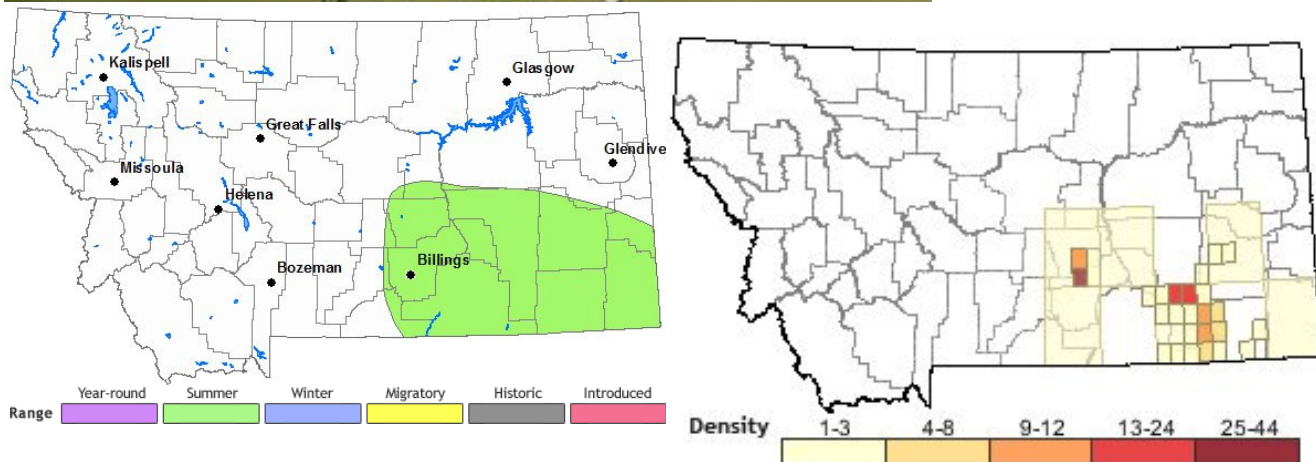
Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: S4B

### Agency Status

USFWS:

USFS:

BLM:



Number of Observations: 213

## General Description

The Cassin's Kingbird is a large flycatcher with a bright yellow belly, dark gray head and breast, with a white malar. The tail is blackish with pale to whitish tips. The bill, gape, and feet are black (the gape in juveniles is orange). The species is 23 cm in length and has a wingspan of 41 cm (Sibley 2000). As its scientific name implies, this kingbird is noted for its aggressive nature toward potential predators or rivals of its own species, and it is obvious and persistent with vocalizations (Tweitt and Tweitt 2000).

The song of this species is described as clear, nasal notes, containing a hoarse "churr" that rise to sounds of "teew, teew, teew tewdi tidadidew." The call note is described as a husky "CHI-Vrrrr" with nasal notes following in a rapid series (Sibley 2000).

## Habitat

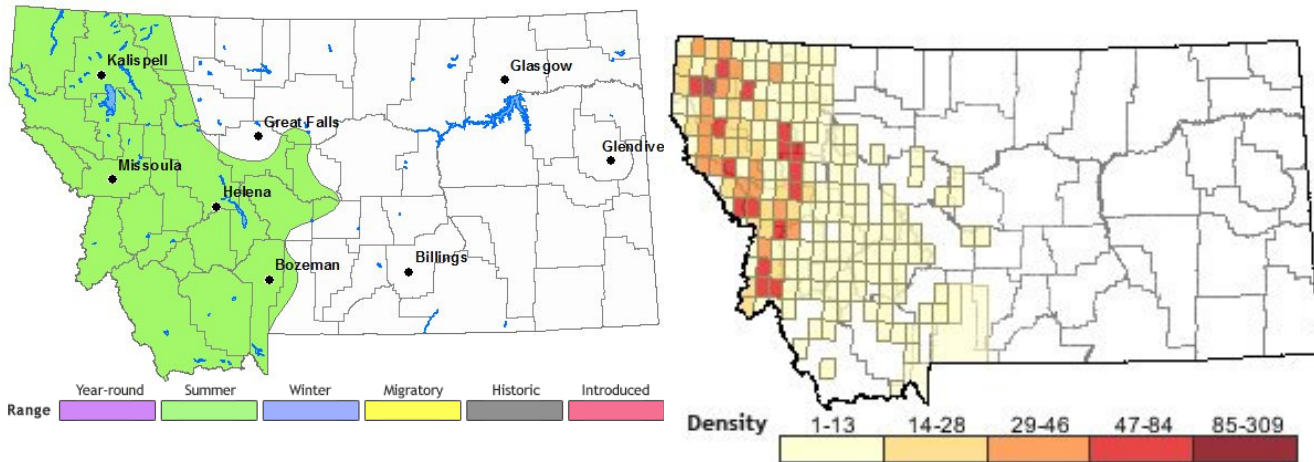
Based upon limited observations in the state, the species is generally restricted to conifer or riparian habitats. Cassin's Kingbird was observed in the relatively open ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) forest near Ashland, in Powder River County, the Bull Mountains, Musselshell County, (a location also dominated by ponderosa pine), and along Cow Creek in the Custer National Forest (Lenard et al. 2003).

# Cassin's Vireo - *Vireo cassinii*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 5921

## General Description

Sexes monomorphic by plumage and size, although females tend to be slightly duller. Upperparts dull olive-green becoming brownish gray on crown and auriculars. Brownish-gray face contrasts with bold, white "spectacles," formed by supraloral stripe and eye-ring, the latter interrupted by dusky loreal streak. Wings and tail brownish black; 2 broad yellowish-white wing-bars. Remiges and rectrices finely edged olive-yellow or grayish olive; outer rectrix finely edged white. Rump brighter olive-green than mantle. Underparts dingy white with sides of breast smudged dull olive-green, and paler, yellowish-olive flanks. Iris brown; bill black with bluish-gray base; legs grayish blue (Goguen and Curson 2002).

## Habitat

Species tends to prefer dry, open forests. Occupies coniferous, mixed-coniferous/deciduous, and deciduous forests in mountains and foothills.



## Cattle Egret - *Bubulcus ibis*



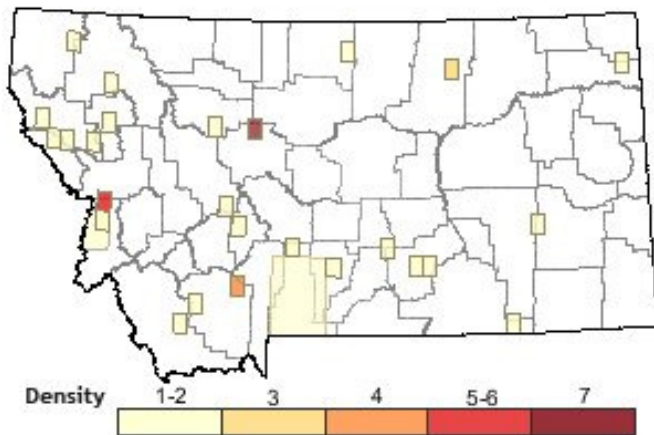
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 48

### General Description

A gregarious, white, chicken-sized bird easily recognized by its foraging association with grazing animals. Compared to similar-sized herons and egrets, it is short-legged and thick-necked; throat appears swollen (Telfair II 1994).

### Habitat

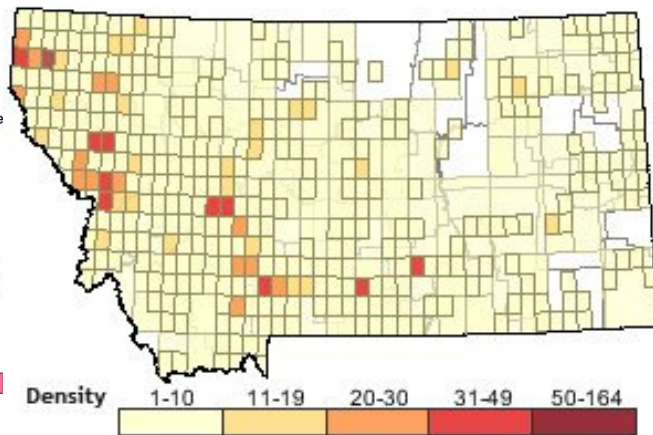
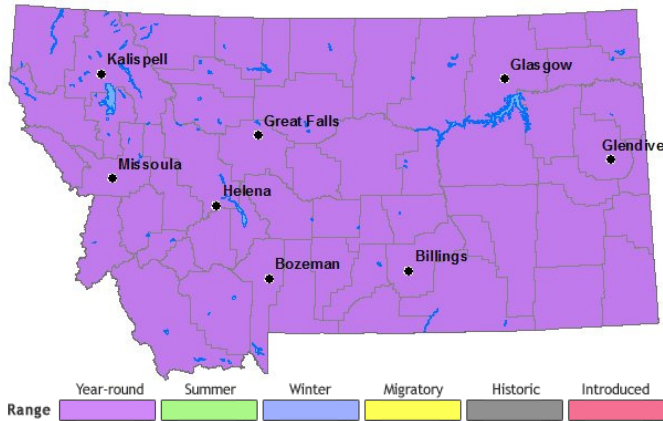
The Cattle Egret is the most terrestrial heron; widespread and remarkably adapted to many habitats, both terrestrial and aquatic. Best described as a species adapted to naturally disturbed as well as to highly disrupted, converted landscapes, such as typical cattle and farm land and urban areas (parks, school grounds, sports fields, road edges, lawns, and city dumps and refuse areas) (Telfair II 1994).

# Cedar Waxwing - *Bombycilla cedrorum*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3510

## General Description

An 18-cm-long bird with a crest, yellow-tipped tail, silky plumage, and waxy red tips on the secondaries; brown above; pale yellow belly; white undertail coverts; juveniles has dark streaking.

## Habitat

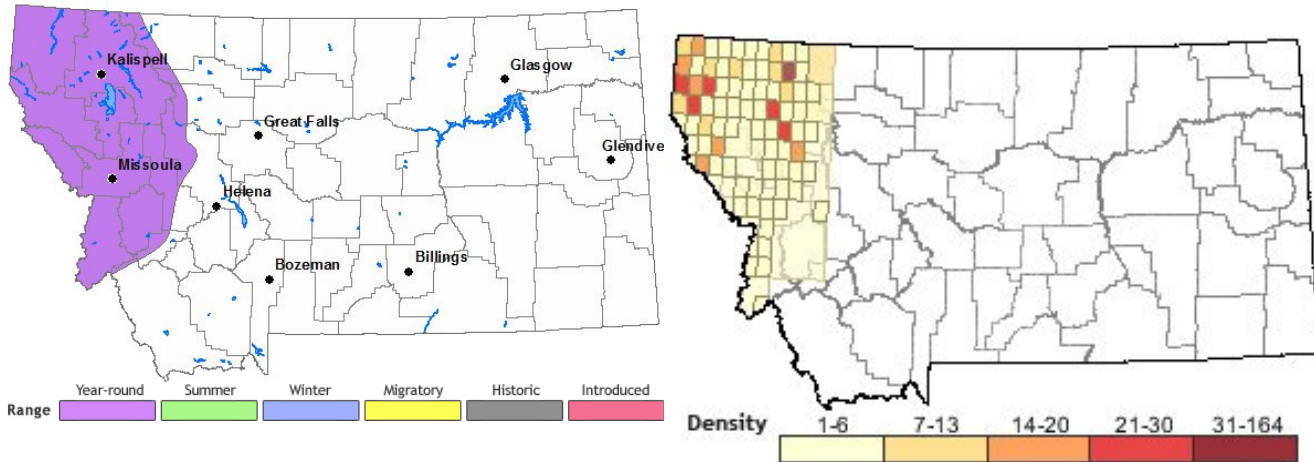
Habitats include deciduous, coniferous, and mixed woodlands—especially open forests and riparian areas of deserts and grasslands; farms, orchards, conifer plantations, and suburban gardens also popular.

# Chestnut-backed Chickadee - *Poecile rufescens*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 942

## General Description

Smallest and relatively shortest-tailed of North American chickadees. Males: 105.0 mm to 120.5 mm. Females: 100.0 mm to 114.0 mm. Average mass for all 8.5 to 12.6. Cap, from forehead to hindneck extending to just below eyes, dark brown with slight grayish tinge becoming blackish through eyes bordered below by white cheek patch. Back to rump deep rufous-chestnut. A dark blackish-brown bib extends across malar region, chin, throat, and upper breast. Readily distinguished from other North American chickadees by the chestnut back and rump. Lacks a whistled song; rarely uses the Gargle call; has a particularly robust "chick-a-dee" call (Dahlsten et al. 2002).

## Habitat

Found in humid coastal and interior forests from southeastern Alaska to southern California. Year-round resident throughout its range. Occurs within the densest coniferous forests, or along edges, where temperature is even and there is considerable shade (Dahlsten et al. 2002).



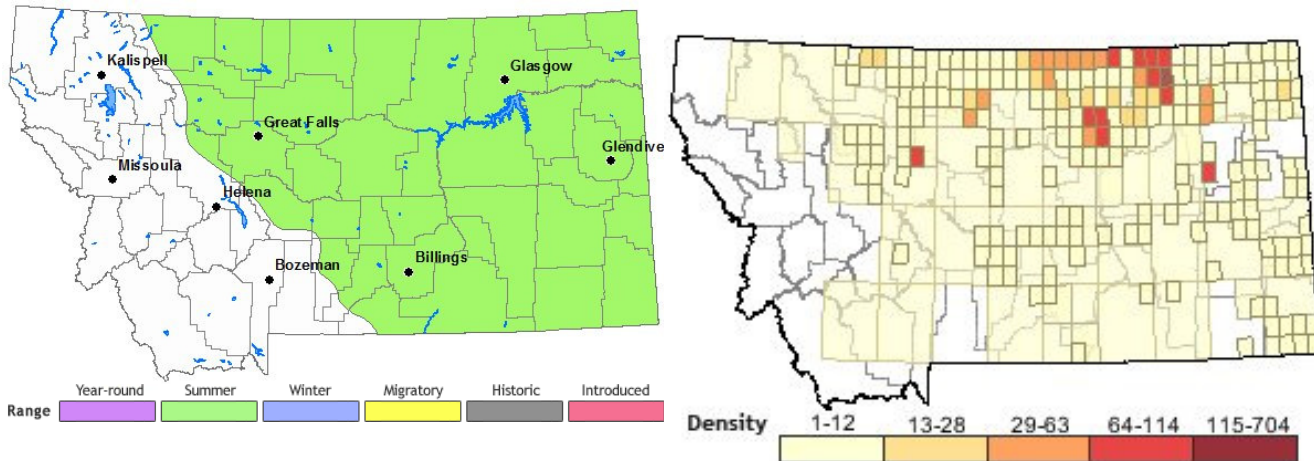
# Chestnut-collared Longspur - *Calcarius ornatus*



## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S2B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 5762

## General Description

Medium-sized (length 13 to 16.5 cm; mass 18 to 23 g), terrestrial, with small, acutely conical bill, long, pointed wings, and long, slender claw of hind toe (hence the name "longspur"). Smallest longspur. Four outer tail-feathers extensively white at base, forming distinctive pattern. In breeding (Definitive Alternate) male, crown and breast black, sometimes tipped with chestnut to varying degrees; cheek and upper throat yellowish buff, though some birds white in these areas; characteristic deep chestnut hindneck (collar); shoulder (lesser-coverts) black with white posterior trim (longest inner lesser-coverts). Breeding female overall grayish buff and streaked with dusky; sometimes shows dull, obscure chestnut collar and dark feathers on breast and belly. Winter (Definitive Basic) male similar to breeding male, except black on head and breast and chestnut on nape are "veiled" by buffy feather tips. Winter female similar to breeding female, but has buffy feather tips (Hill and Gould 1997).

## Habitat

Species prefers short-to-medium grasses that have been recently grazed or mowed. Prefers native pastures.

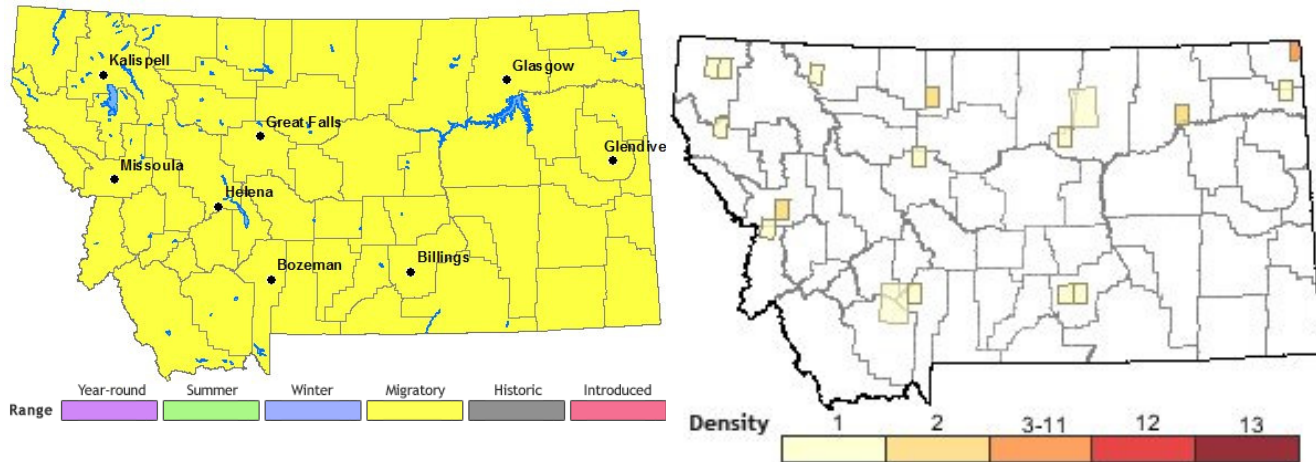


# Chestnut-sided Warbler - *Setophaga pensylvanica*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 31

## General Description

Adult male: Entire crown bright yellow; white patch on side of head behind eye; line from base of bill to eye and extending down side of throat black; two yellowish white wing bars; back bright olive-green, streaked with black; tail black with white patches near tip; underparts white, bordered conspicuously along sides with bright chestnut. Adult female: Similar but colors duller and area of chestnut more restricted (AOU 1998).

# Chimney Swift - *Chaetura pelagica*



## Potential Species of Concern

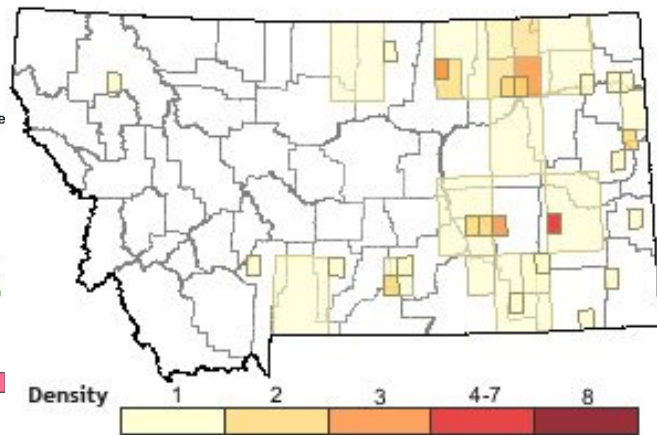
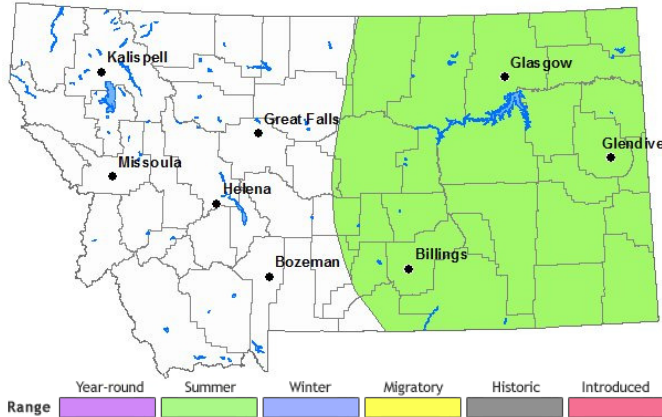
Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: S3S4B

### Agency Status

USFWS:

USFS:

BLM:



Number of Observations: 62

## General Description

Small, dark and uniformly colored. Sexes similar in appearance, but slightly different in size. Plain dark olive or brown above and plain grayish brown below, throat, chin, and cheeks pale colored. When viewed up close, wings slightly darker and more blackish than grayer rump and upper tail-coverts; very short rounded tail with spiny tips sometimes visible. Plumage slightly glossy, especially on wings.

## Habitat

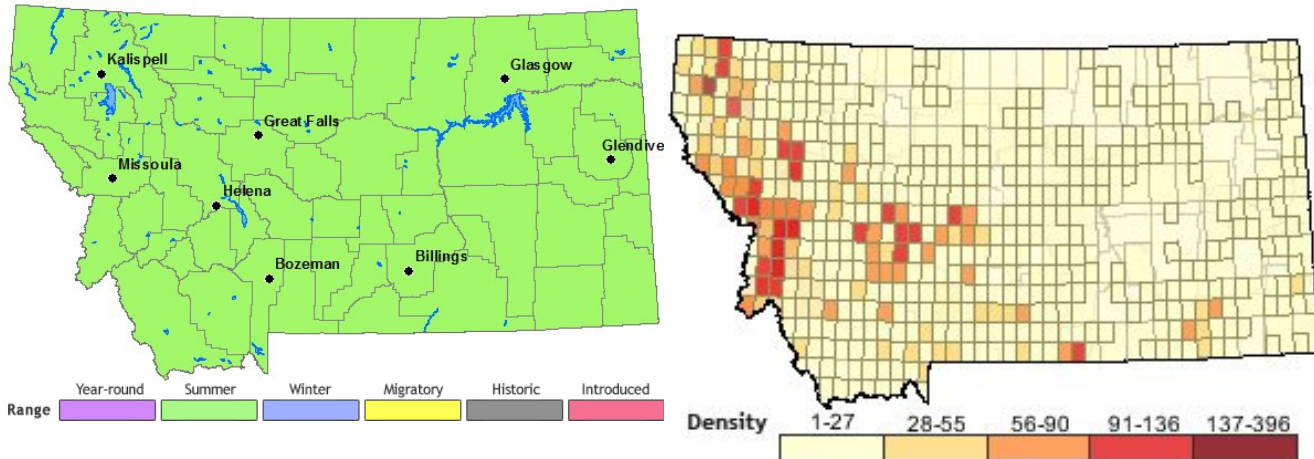
Species prefers roosting chimneys in urban settlements.

# Chipping Sparrow - *Spizella passerina*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 19968

## General Description

Small sparrow; male and female plumages similar. Body length 127 to 147mm; male slightly larger than female. Body mass in summer 11.0 to 15.5 g; female heavier than male. Summer adults have rufous to chestnut brown crown, distinct white superciliary line, black lores and eye-stripe, gray rump, unstreaked gray breast and flanks blending into dull white belly, and black bill (frequently pale brown at base of lower mandible). Female duller than male, with crown frequently finely flecked dark brown (Middleton 1998).

## Habitat

Unlike many sparrows, which are commonly associated with grassland communities, the Chipping Sparrow prefers open woodlands, the borders of natural forest openings, edges of rivers and lakes, and brushy, weedy fields. It has a preference for nesting in open glades of coniferous forests, and for foraging in brushy open areas making it suited to human-modified habitats. A common summer resident in towns and gardens (Middleton 1998).

# Chukar - *Alectoris chukar*



**Exotic Species (not native to Montana)**

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

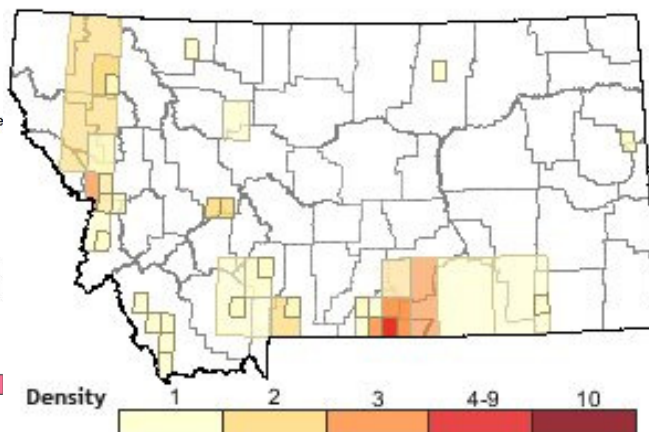
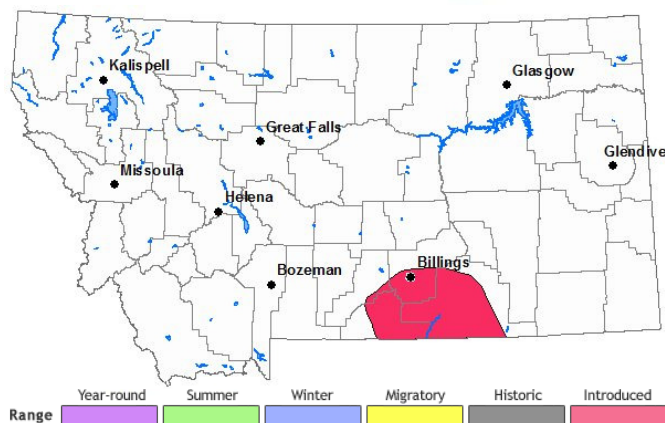
**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**

RON JENKINS



**Number of Observations:** 62

## General Description

Sexes are identical in appearance, with white cheeks and throat separated from the breast by a necklace of black. Adults are grayish brown to olive above, grading to gray on the chest. The sides are buff, with conspicuous black and chestnut vertical stripes, and the belly is buff. The outer tail feathers are reddish-brown. The bill, feet, and legs are red. Adult males and females range from 13 to 15 inches in length; adult males average 19.6 ounces in weight, and adult females, 15.7 ounces.

## Habitat

Habitat consists of steep, rocky, semi-arid country with an abundance of cheatgrass and brushy draws. In western Montana they used brushy areas all year; were near springs late in summer; and grain fields in winter. Semi-arid lands with shrubby cover near steep, rocky hills is used (Davis 1961). They are most successful in sagebrush-juniper or sagebrush-bitterbrush with cheatgrass and bunchgrasses (Mussehl 1971).



# Cinnamon Teal - *Anas cyanoptera*



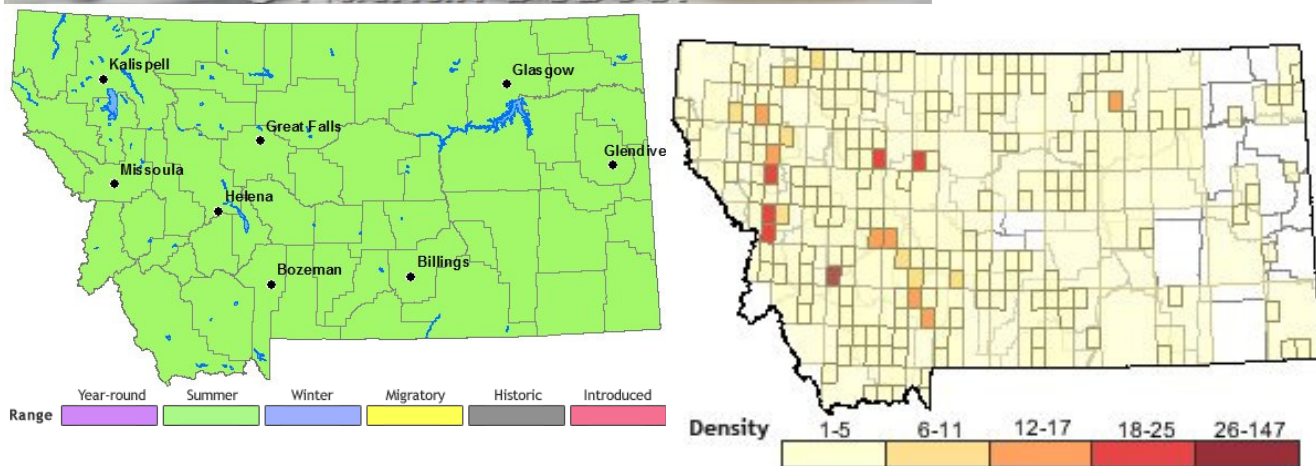
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1198

## General Description

Small dabbling duck. Sexes dimorphic in size and plumage. Both sexes have bright blue upperwing-coverts; wings lined white. Male in breeding plumage has bright rusty plumage on head, neck, and underparts; female mostly brown on upperparts with dark streaks on underparts. Males in basic plumage are very similar to females.

## Habitat

Species prefers wetlands including large marsh systems, natural basins, reservoirs, sluggish streams, ditches, and stock ponds. Well-developed basins with emergent vegetation common habitat.

# Clark's Grebe - *Aechmophorus clarkii*



## Species of Concern

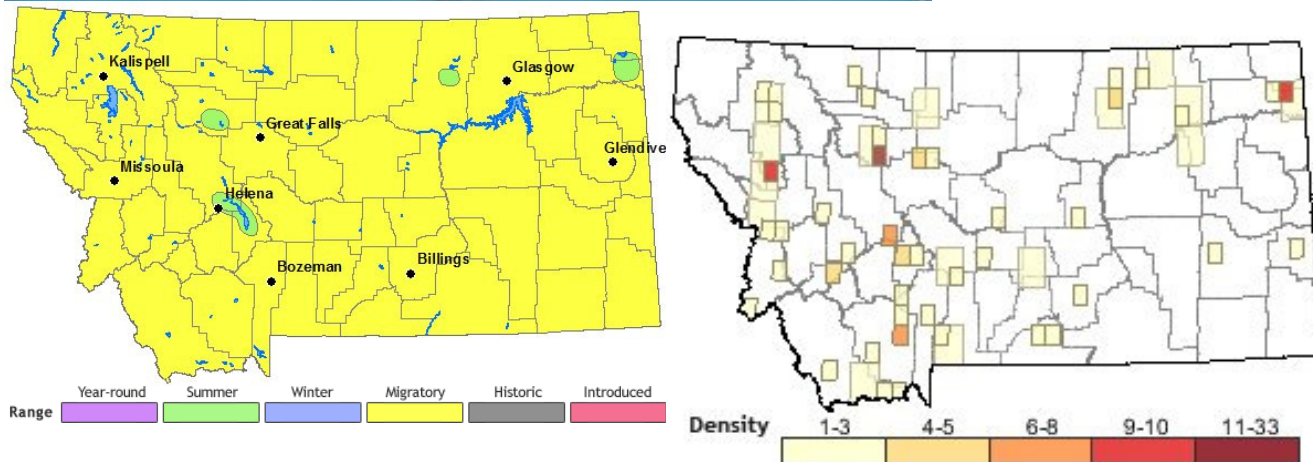
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 175

## General Description

Sexes similar in size and plumage. Clark's Grebe possesses a black crown, yellow bill, a narrow body with a long and thin white neck; back of neck gray. Top of body is mostly gray with speckled white spots. Coverts white with speckled gray.

## Habitat

Clark's Grebes are reported breeding only at very large lakes and reservoirs in Montana. Nesting on Lake Helena was near mid-lake on mats of aquatic plants that had reached the surface.

# Clark's Nutcracker - *Nucifraga columbiana*



## Species of Concern

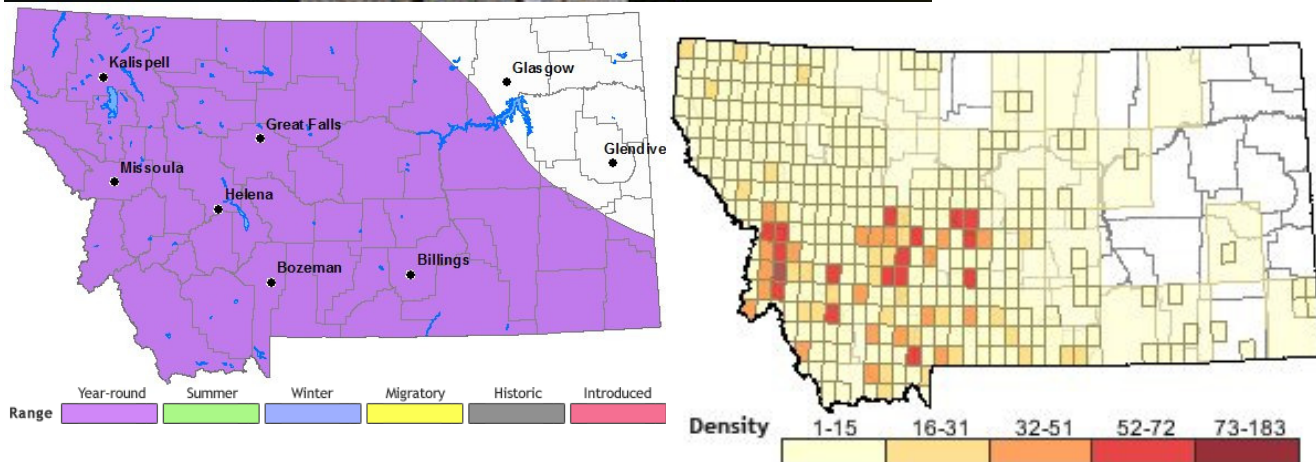
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 6333

## General Description

Clark's Nutcracker is a jay-sized corvid that is crowlike in build and flight, with moderate sexual size dimorphism. Total length of adults 27.0 to 30.1 cm. Mass 106 to 161 g. Males slightly larger than females. Sexes similar in appearance. Light to medium gray, with varying amounts of white around eyes, on forehead, and on chin; white around vent and at base of tail; wings and tail glossy black; secondaries broadly tipped with white forming a white patch; outer rectrices white. Folded wings nearly reach tip of tail. Long, pointed, black bill with short nasal bristles. Distinctive grating call audible at great distance (Tomback 1998).

## Habitat

Nutcrackers in Montana typically occupy conifer forests dominated by whitebark pine at higher elevations and ponderosa pine and limber pine along with Douglas firs at lower elevations, relying largely on seeds of these species for food (Saunders 1921, Mewaldt 1956, Giuntoli and Mewaldt 1978). They often are seen above treeline in alpine meadows or flying among drainages (Weydemeyer 1931, Johnson 1966, Pattie and Verbeek 1966).

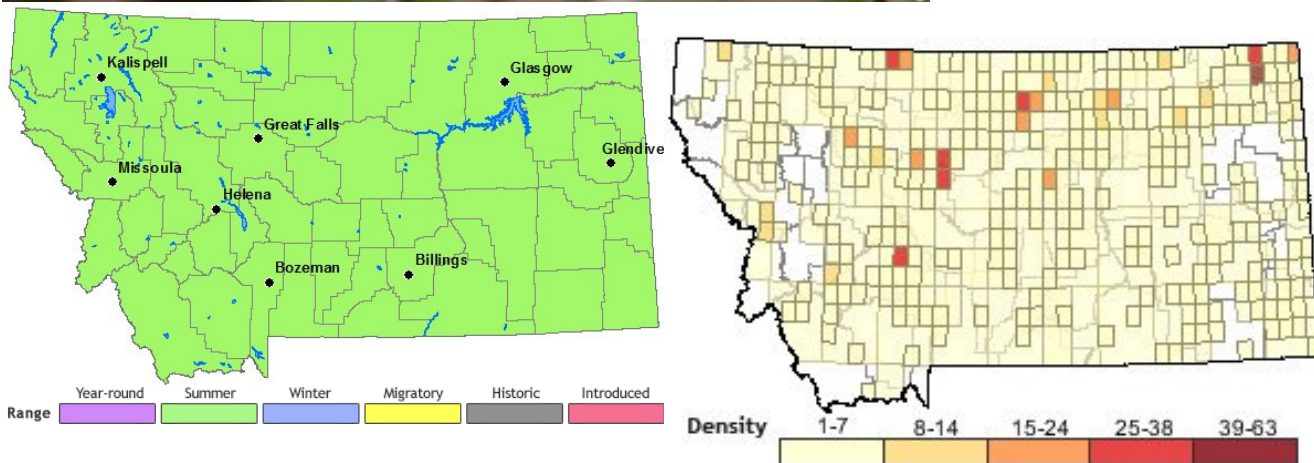


# Clay-colored Sparrow - *Spizella pallida*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1591

## General Description

Slight sexual dimorphism in color and size. Typical of genus *Spizella*—small size, slim build, notched tail and wing bars. Adult plumage upperparts a mixture of grays and browns with sharp blackish streakings, unstreaked grayish-white underparts. Head markings distinctive: gray or white median crown stripe, brown ear patches outlined with dark brown, dark whisker, gray nuchal collar contrasting with rest of plumage, flesh-colored bill dusky above and at tip. Brown rump and head markings separate it from Chipping Sparrow. Similar to Brewer's Sparrow, but with more strongly patterned head markings, especially rich brown sides of crown overlain with wide black streaks contrasting at a distance with pale supercilium and median crown stripe (Kaufman 1990, Knapton 1994).

## Habitat

Species prefers open shrubland, thickets along edges of waterways, second-growth areas, and forest edges and burns.

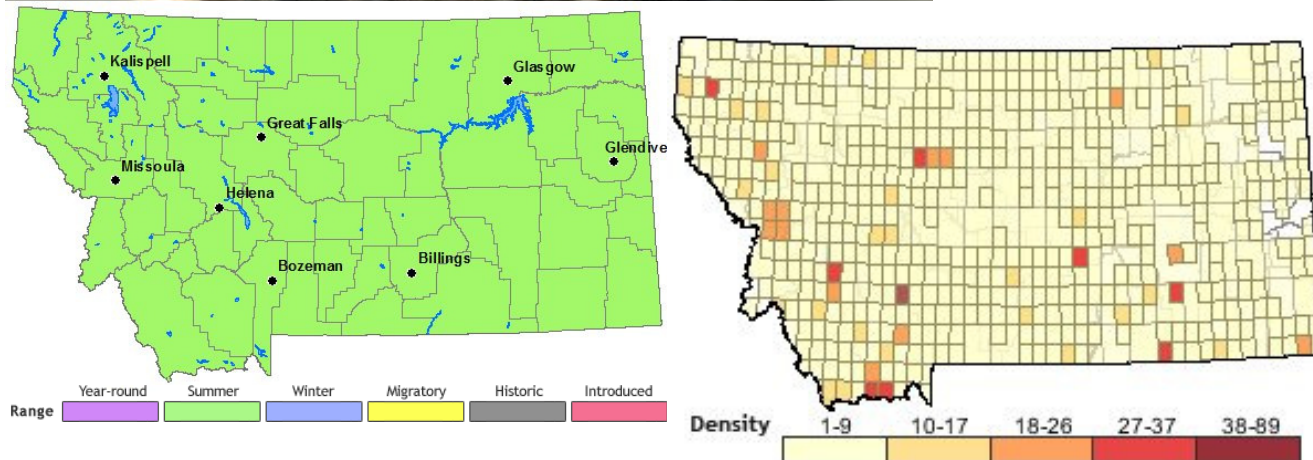


# Cliff Swallow - *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3292

## General Description

Separated in all plumages and ages from all other North American swallows except Cave Swallow by a square tail and orange rump. In all populations, exhibits a chestnut-colored throat. Most subspecies show a cream- or white-colored, triangular-shaped forehead patch, characters that separate the species from Cave Swallow. Head and neck are noticeably thicker than other North American swallows (Brown and Brown 1995).

## Habitat

Historically inhabited open canyons, foothills, escarpments, and river valleys that offered a vertical cliff face with a horizontal overhang for nest attachment. Now found in a wide variety of habitats because of use of artificial nesting structures such as bridges and buildings. Avoids heavy forest, desert and alpine areas. Most colony sites are located near open fields or pastures where the birds forage and a water source is often nearby. Proximity to mud source is often cited as a breeding-habitat requirement (Brown and Brown 1995).

# Common Gallinule - *Gallinula galeata*



**Accidental Species**

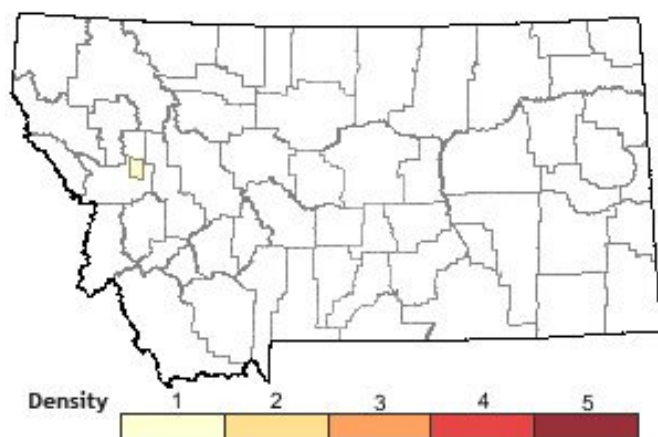
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

## General Description

A henlike, dark bird; in adults, the head and neck are black, the back brownish-olive, and the underparts slate, with a white streak on the flanks; the bill is red with a yellow tip, and there is a red forehead shield (bill and shield brownish in winter; bill dusky in juveniles); feet are large and yellow in adults, dusky in juveniles, which are paler and browner than adults.

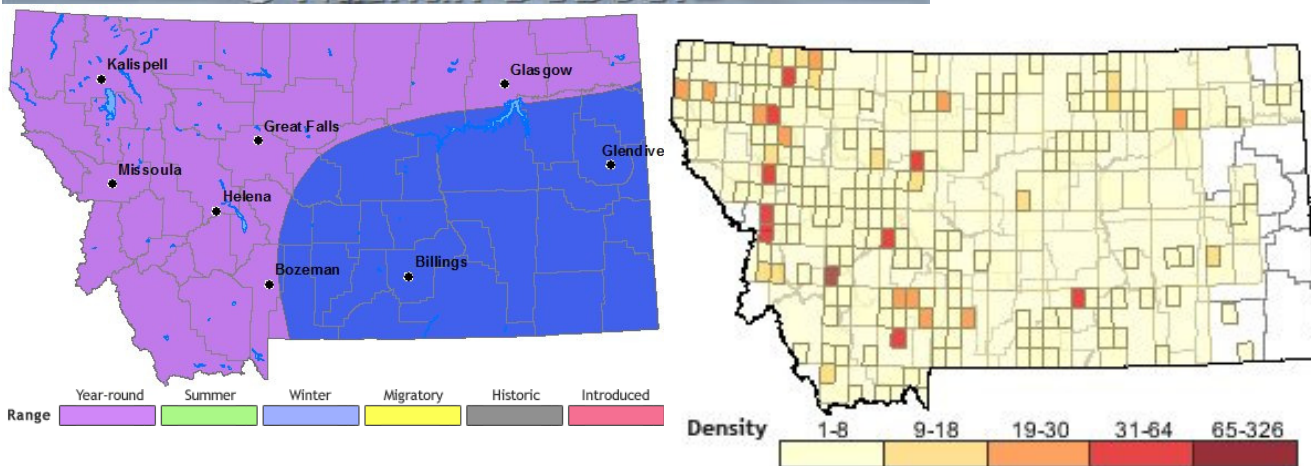
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# Common Goldeneye - *Bucephala clangula*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2496

## General Description

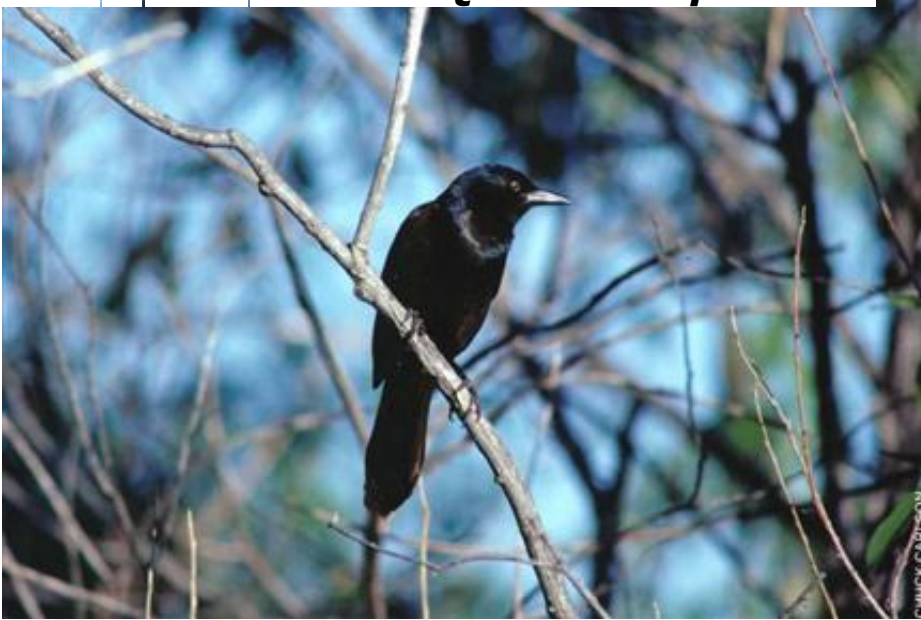
Medium-sized diving duck. Compact, "chunky" appearance with short neck and round body; short, gray-black bill. Breeding males have striking pattern of iridescent greenish-black head with bright, oval (rather than crescent of Barrow's Goldeneye) white patch at hind base of bill. Brilliant white sides, breast, belly, and secondaries contrast with black back, wings, and tail. Females have chocolate brown head; gray back, wings and tail; and white flanks, belly, and breast. Immature and eclipse males are difficult to distinguish from females. Both sexes have bright amber irises (hence the name "golden-eye"); irises are more brownish in young. Wingbeat is rapid with a relatively deep arc; produces distinctive "whistle" (Eadie et al. 1995).

## Habitat

Breeding birds usually are found in forested wetland habitats (Johnsgard 1986). In migration, they occur on both lakes and rivers (Skaar 1969).

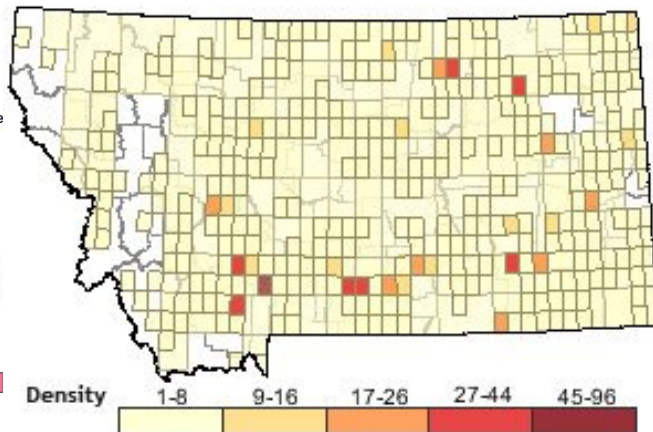
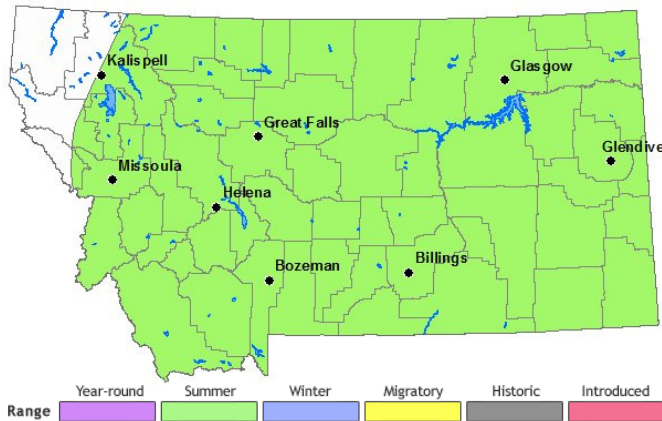


# Common Grackle - *Quiscalus quiscula*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2135

## General Description

Male essentially black with glossy, iridescent sheen; head, neck, and breast are glossy purplish blue or bluish green. Female slightly smaller and less glossy. Glossy head contrasts with brassy bronze body.

## Habitat

Species found in open woodland and forest edges; also swamps, marshes, and around human habitation.



# Common Loon - *Gavia immer*

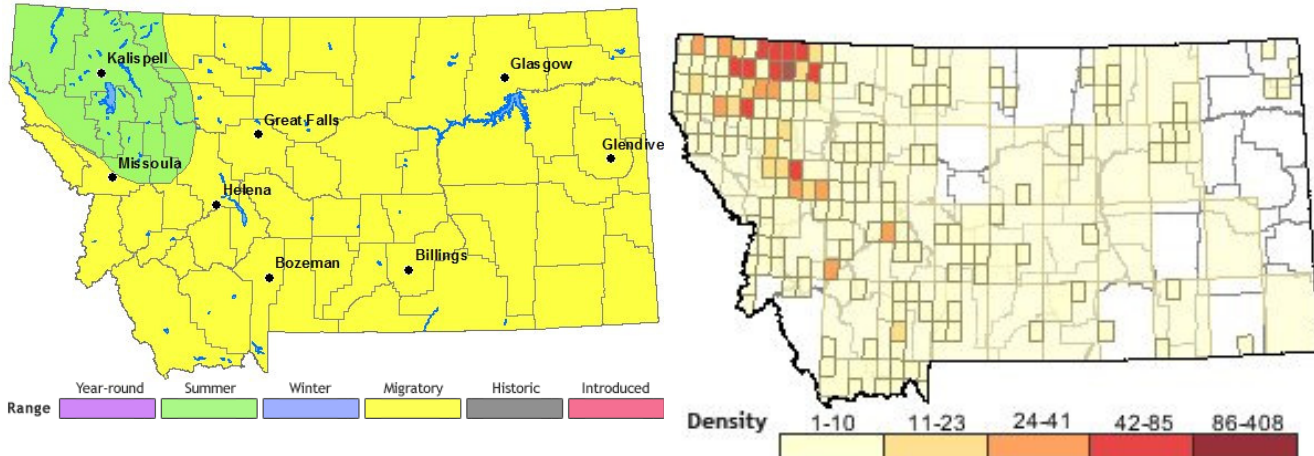


## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**  
**USFS:** SENSITIVE  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 3455

## General Description

The Common Loon is a large and mainly aquatic bird. Males are generally larger than females. Adult body length ranges from 71 to 92 cm (28 to 36 inches) with wingspans to 147 cm (58 inches). Weight varies ranging from 1.6 to 8 kg (3.5 to 17.6 lb.) with an average of about 3 to 4 kg (6.6 to 8.8 lb.) (McIntyre 1988, McIntyre and Barr 1997). The feet are located far back on the body and are large, webbed, and sweep to the side rather than forward under the belly. This trait makes it difficult for Common Loons to walk on land but allows more efficient swimming underwater.

Sexes are indistinguishable based on plumage. The head and neck of breeding adults are black with a green gloss. The back, wings and sides are also black. Scapulars and wing-coverts have large white markings, which is a distinctive field mark. The eye is red. Common Loons have a broad patch of vertical white stripes on the side of the neck and a smaller patch on the upper foreneck. The breast and belly are white and the bill is straight, heavy and black (McIntyre and Barr 1997). In the non-breeding plumage, the head, neck and upper parts are dark gray to dark brown. The cheeks, throat, and underparts are white. The bill is brownish-gray to pale bluish-gray or horn colored. The iris is brown. The tail is dark brown, tipped with white (Bent 1919, Johnsgard 1987, McIntyre 1986, 1988). Juvenile plumage is similar to the adult non-breeding plumage, although the upperparts have paler and more conspicuous feather margins than those of adults, and the throat and sides of the neck are more finely streaked with brown. This plumage is worn until the following summer when the birds molt into more adult-like basic plumage (Palmer 1962, McIntyre 1988).

Common Loons are known for their distinctive calls, three of which are heard on summer breeding lakes. The wail, a long almost mournful cry, the tremolo, a high pitched, rapid, five-beat call, and probably the best known is the yodel which is given only by males during territorial confrontations. Common Loons generally lay 2 subelliptical to ovoid shaped eggs which vary from deep olive to light brown in color, with irregular dark brown or black spots.

## Habitat

In Montana, Common Loons will not generally nest on lakes less than about 13 acres in size or over 5000 feet in elevation (Skaar 1990). Successful nesting requires both nesting sites and nursery areas. Small islands are preferred for nesting, but herbaceous shoreline areas, especially promontories, are also selected. Nursery areas are very often sheltered, shallow coves with abundant small fish and insects (Skaar 1990). Most Montana lakes inhabited by Common Loons are relatively oligotrophic and have not experienced significant siltation or other hydrological changes.

The quantity and quality of nesting habitat limits the Common Loon population of northwest Montana. Skaar (1990) estimated the state's "carrying capacity" at 185 potential nesting territories, based on the size and number of lakes within the species' breeding distribution. He assumed 100 ha of surface area per pair. Kelly (1992) documented a density of 72.2 surface ha of water per adult Common Loon for the Tobacco, Stillwater, Clearwater, and Swan River drainages.

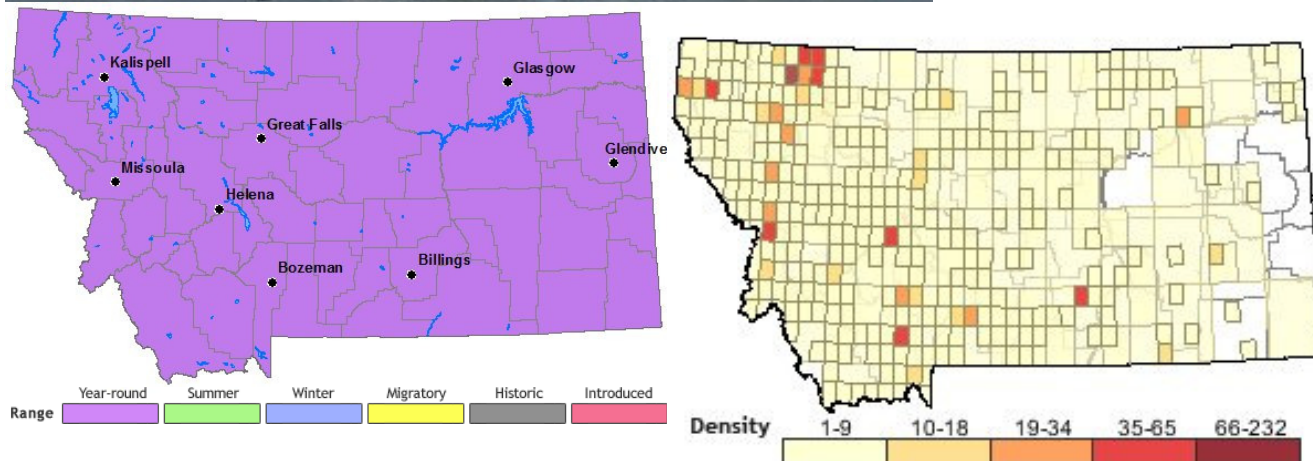
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# Common Merganser - *Mergus merganser*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2810

## General Description

Large diving duck. Males are 60 to 71 cm, 1700 g; females 54 to 68 cm, 1230 g. Male has greenish-black head, white neck and underparts, black upper wings, gray back and tail, and long narrow scarlet-orange bill. Female has rusty-brown head with long crest and white chin patch, gray breast, back, wings and tail with white flanks and belly and scarlet-orange bill (Mallory and Metz 1999).

## Habitat

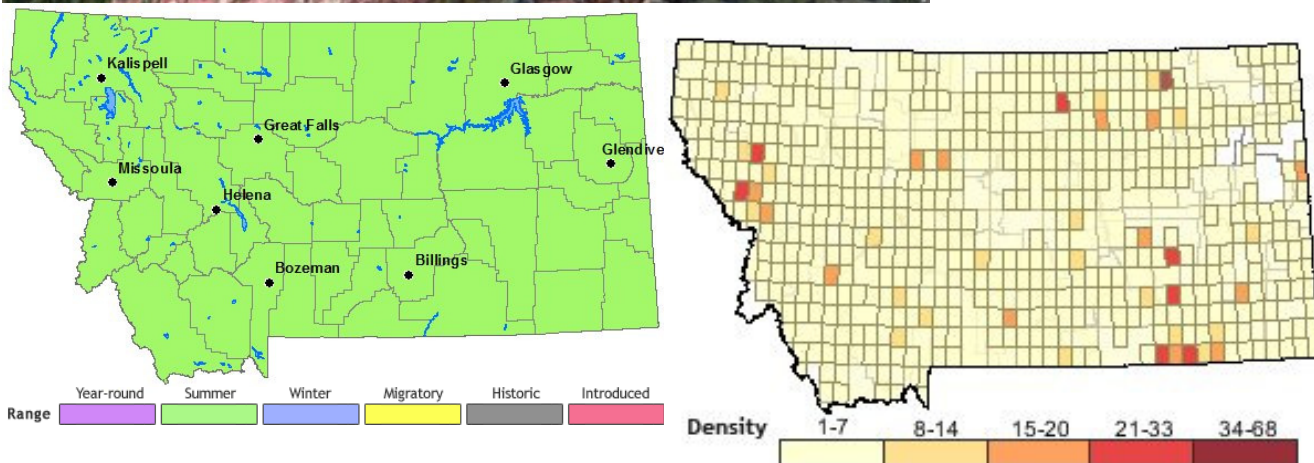
During summer in the Bozeman area, Common Mergansers occur on large lakes and large rivers. During migration, most birds are on lakes (in the largest concentrations) (Skaar 1969).

# Common Nighthawk - *Chordeiles minor*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2729

## General Description

Sexes similar in size and plumage. Has flat head with large eyes; small bill but large mouth. Long, slender wings and white spot on primaries. Pronounced barring on abdomen and sides.

## Habitat

During breeding season, habitat includes coastal sand dunes and beaches, woodland clearings, prairies and plains, and flat gravel rooftops of city buildings. During times of migration, habitat includes farmlands, river valleys, marshes, and coastal dunes.



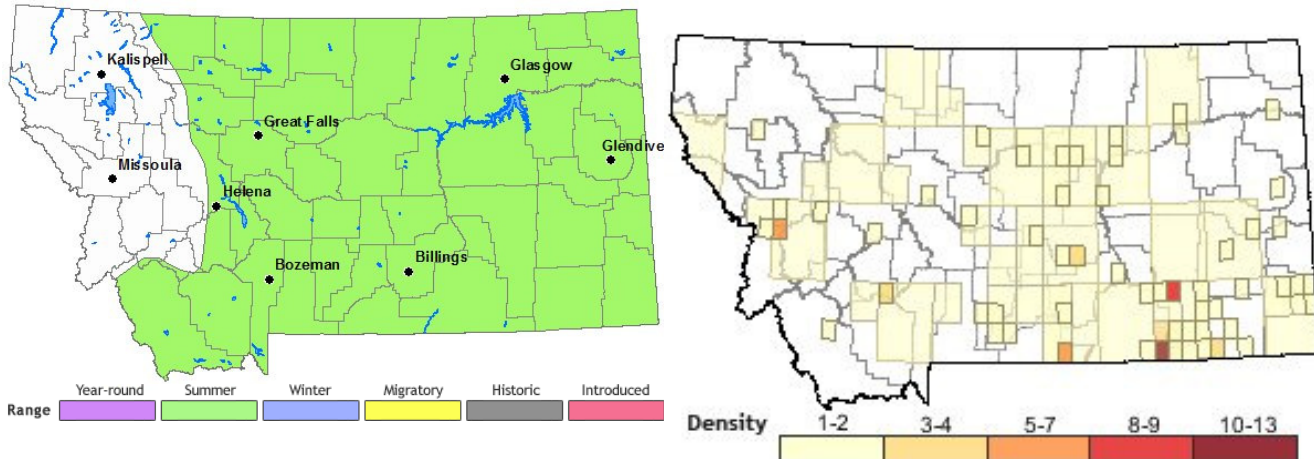
# Common Poorwill - *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*



## Potential Species of Concern

Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: S4B

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



Number of Observations: 170

## General Description

Small 19 to 21 cm, 36.0 to 54.5 g. Head large and flattened, large eyes, small bill with immense gape. Tail and wings are short and rounded. Plumage soft brown and gray streaked with black and white. Paler underside. Broad white band crosses dark throat and chest. Rectrices in males have white tips, buff colored in females. Lack of white wing stripe and presence of rictal bristles and white or buff colored tail tips distinguish this species from Common Nighthawk. Noted for its distinctive "poor-will" call and its ability to enter a state of torpor (Csada and Brigham 1992).

## Habitat

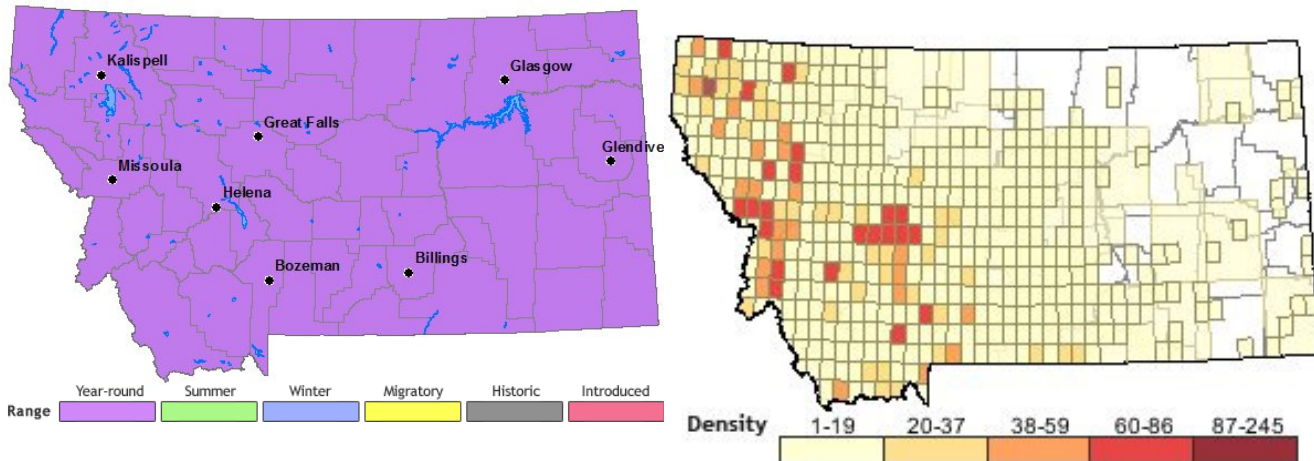
Dry, open, grassy or shrubby areas; high rolling prairies, semi-arid flats, and rocky foothills (Csada and Brigham 1992).

# Common Raven - *Corvus corax*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 10545

## General Description

Very large, adult length up to 69 cm, mass 689 to 1,625 g. Plumage entirely glossy black with relatively long pointed wings, wedge-shaped tail, throat with elongated feathers commonly referred to as "hackles" and a large chisel-like bill. Female is somewhat smaller (Boarman and Heinrich 1999). See Heinrich (1994) for information on distinguishing juveniles and adults using plumage characteristics.

## Habitat

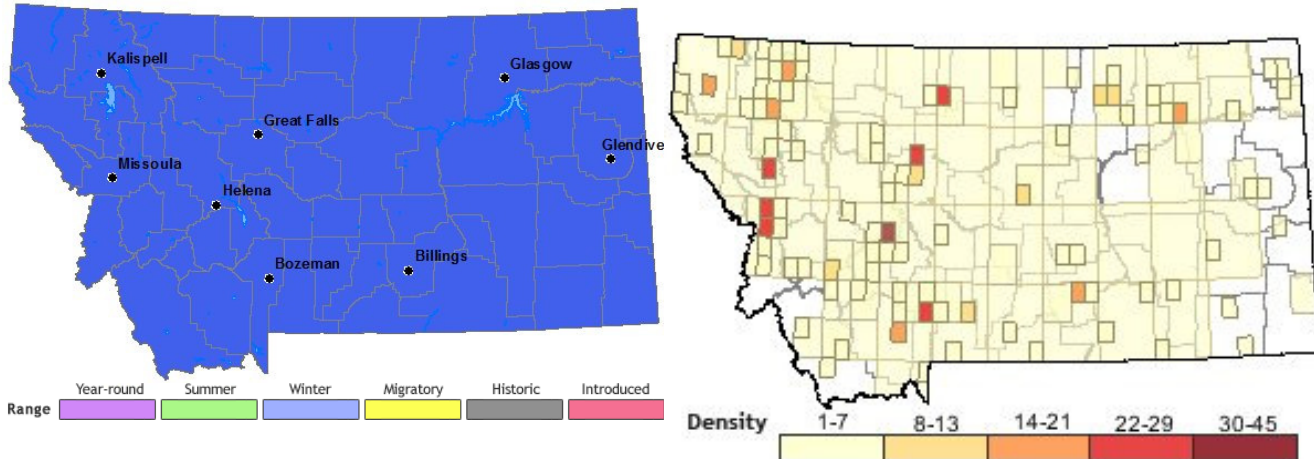
Broad range of habitats: boreal, conifer, and deciduous forests; tundra; prairies and grasslands; isolated settlements, towns, and cities; deserts; sea coasts and islands; agricultural fields; Arctic ice floes; and the highest mountains. It is one of the most widespread naturally occurring birds in the world (Boarman and Heinrich 1999). Birds descend into valleys in the winter (Davis 1961, Skaar 1969).

# Common Redpoll - *Acanthis flammea*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5N

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 881

## General Description

Common Redpolls are busy, acrobatic little finches, spending much of their time flitting about, feeding, and calling with their incessant calls. They are a very small finch, with typical conical, pointed bill; length 12-14 cm; mass 11-20 g. Adult male: crown bright red, chin and lores black; upperparts dark with grayish-brown feather centers and broad pale-whitish or buff-white edges in fresh plumage, wearing off through spring until summer, when upperparts become very dark; upperparts usually look streaked, especially when fresh; wings and tail blackish brown with pale whitish edgings, broad wing bars. Rump, cheeks and breast read or pink, color deepest during breeding season. Adult female: similar to male but generally darker and streakier, with little or no red in plumage except on crown. Plumage of both sexes much paler in winter (Know and Lowther 2000).

## Habitat

Breeding range: open subarctic, largely coniferous forest and scrub, on dry, rocky, or damp substrates; level or steeply sloped; avoids dense forest; occurs on tundra and above timberline only where shrubby deciduous and sometimes coniferous vegetation occurs in hollows and sheltered places. Spring and fall migration; winter range: open woodland and scrub, particularly of birch, alder, and willow; also among weeds, at field edges, and in towns and villages (Knox and Lowther 2000).



# Common Tern - *Sterna hirundo*



## Species of Concern

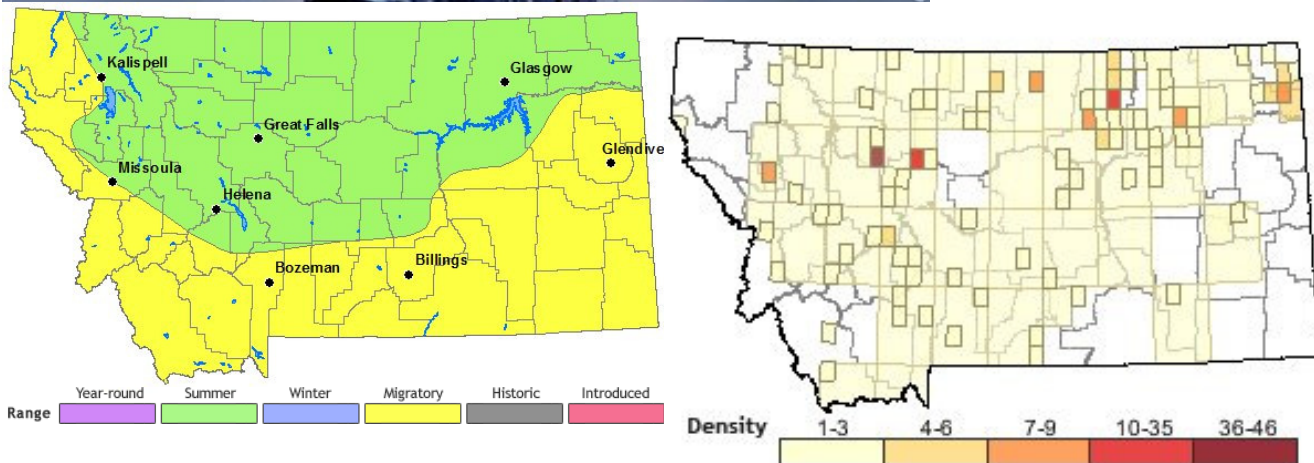
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 412

## General Description

In breeding plumage, the Common Tern has an orange-red bill tipped in black and orange-red legs. The back, body, and wings are a silvery-gray with blackish primaries on the wingtips, evident during flight. The nape and cap are black and extend low enough on the head to contain the black eye before abruptly stopping at the white of the cheek and neck. The outer tail feathers on the forked tail are dusky. In non-breeding plumage the bill and legs lose their red coloration and are black. The cap no longer covers the forehead, leaving a white patch nearly to the top of the head (Sibley 2000).

The vocalization is described as numerous, varied, and of sharp, distinctive, and somewhat irritable timbre (Nisbet 2002). The most common call, the advertising call, is described as a down-slurring "keeyuur" or an up-slurred "keeuri" in addition to the "kip" or "tyik" call that is expressed during flock feeding, or during take-off and landing (Sibley 2000, Nisbet 2002).

## Habitat

Nesting in Montana generally occurs on sparsely vegetated islands in large bodies of water, such as Medicine Lake and Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge. Nest substrate at these locations includes sparsely sandy, pebbly, or stony substrate, surrounded by matted or sparsely scattered vegetation (Casey 2000, Nisbet 2002). A study in the Lewistown District of the Bureau of Land Management documented that the Common Tern selected sites larger than 30 acres, with emergent vegetation covering more than 25% of the shoreline on all but one of the eight sites studied (Feigley 1997). All nesting occurred on islands (Feigley 1997).

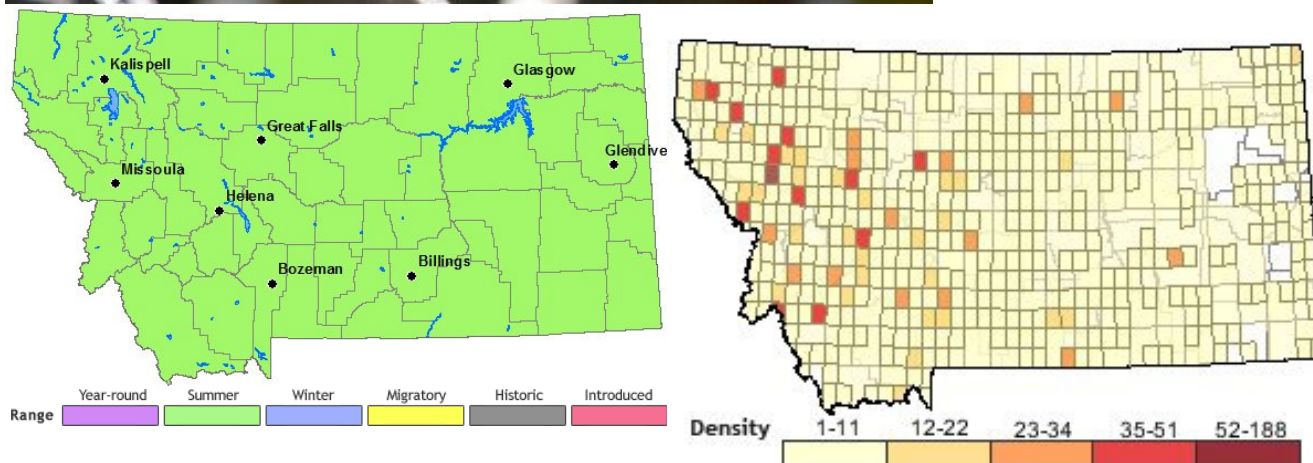


# Common Yellowthroat - *Geothlypis trichas*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 4260

## General Description

Upperparts olive-brown; throat and breast yellow; sides tan; belly whitish; adult male has a broad black mask, bordered above by white; immature male has a pale eye ring and an indistinct mask; 11 to 14 cm long.

## Habitat

Occupies thick vegetation in wide range of habitats from wetlands to prairie to pine forest (Guzy and Ritchison 1999).

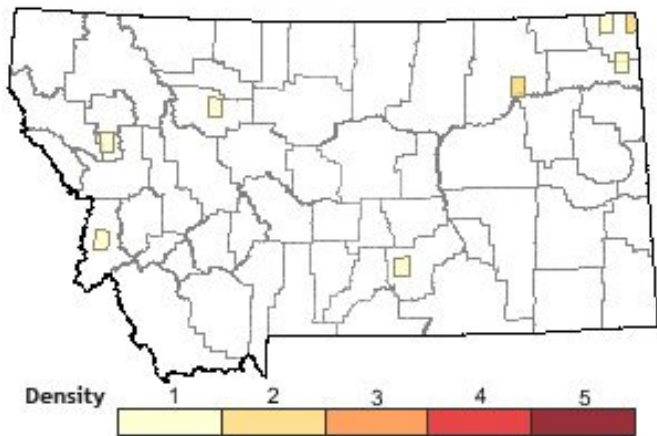
# Connecticut Warbler - *Oporornis agilis*



Accidental Species

Global Rank: G4  
State Rank: SNA

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



Number of Observations: 10

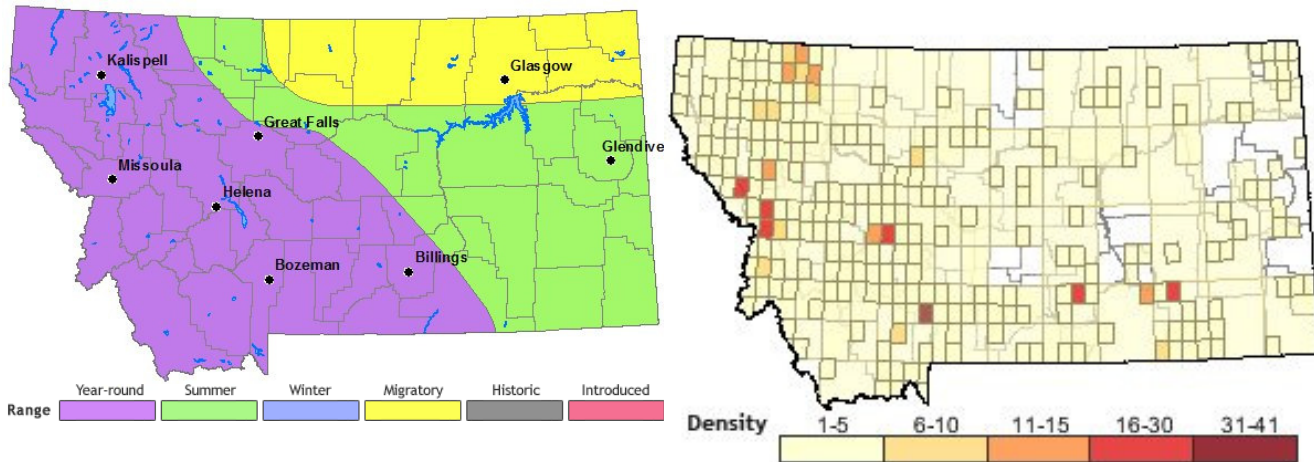
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# Cooper's Hawk - *Accipiter cooperii*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1105

## General Description

Male Cooper's Hawks are dark gray on the back with a black crown and paler neck and face. The belly is white with distinct horizontal rufous bars extending from the neck to the tail and legs. The iris of the eye is deep red and the feet are yellow. Adult females have similar markings, except they have more brown on the back and the eye color is paler. Juveniles are brown on the back with some white streaking on the belly, and the tail has a white tip and three or four dark brown bars. Cooper's Hawks measure from 14 to 20 inches in length with wingspans of 27 to 36 inches. Females are somewhat larger than males. A medium-size diurnal raptor with rounded wings, a long brown/black banded tail (often rounded at the end), and a hooked bill; adult is mainly gray/brown above, barred rusty brown below, with strong contrast between dark crown and paler nape and back; immature is paler, with brown upperparts, dark-streaked whitish or buffy underparts, and white undertail coverts. Average length 36 to 51 centimeters, wingspan 74 to 94 centimeters; females average larger than males.

## Habitat

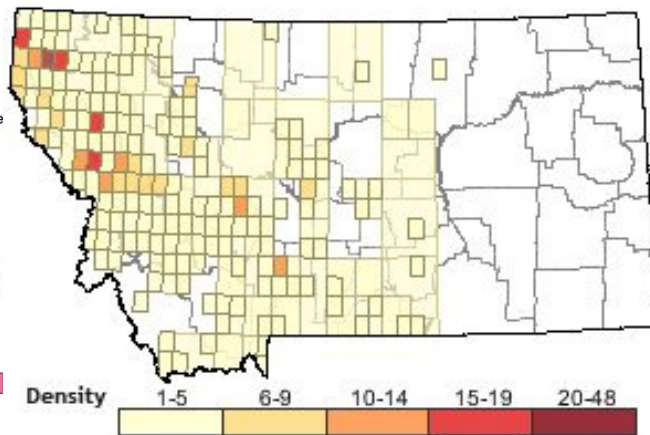
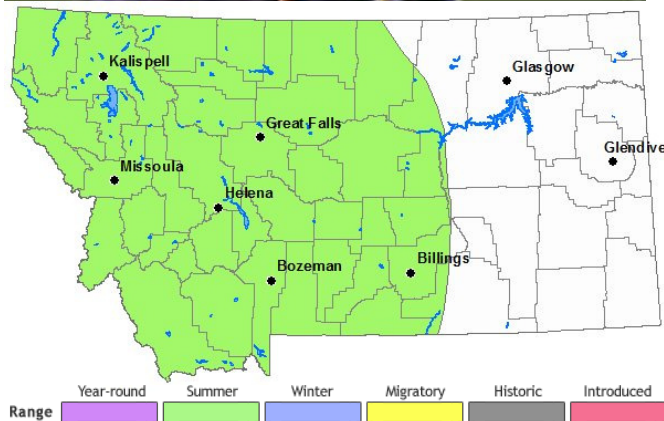
They nest in dense deciduous and coniferous forest cover, often in draws or riparian areas. They hunt in these areas or in adjacent open country. In the Bozeman area, winter birds occur in forests and thickets of valley. In summer, they are confined to the forest edge in the foothills (Skaar 1969).

# Cordilleran Flycatcher - *Empidonax occidentalis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 818

## General Description

One of the 2 species of Western Flycatchers. A small flycatcher, with length 14 to 17 cm and mass 9 to 12 g. The Cordilleran Flycatcher is slightly larger and heavier than its counterpart, the Pacific-slope Flycatcher. Western Flycatchers are pale, dull yellowish with teardrop- or almond-shaped eye-ring, olive-green upperparts, dull-brownish flight feathers and wing-coverts with dingy yellowish wing-bars, dull-yellowish underparts, relatively long tail and short wing, gray leg color, and broad bill with yellow-orange to pinkish lower mandible. Tend to appear relatively large-headed, with rather prominent short peak to rear crown. The Cordilleran Flycatcher is distinguished by its 2-part call (Lowther 2000).

## Habitat

"Coolness, shade, and nest sites" are requisites, and this species, from Alberta to northern Mexico, "invariably associated with water courses, and thus openings, in the timber" (Johnson 1980 as cited in Lowther 2000).



# Costa's Hummingbird - *Calypte costae*



**Accidental Species**

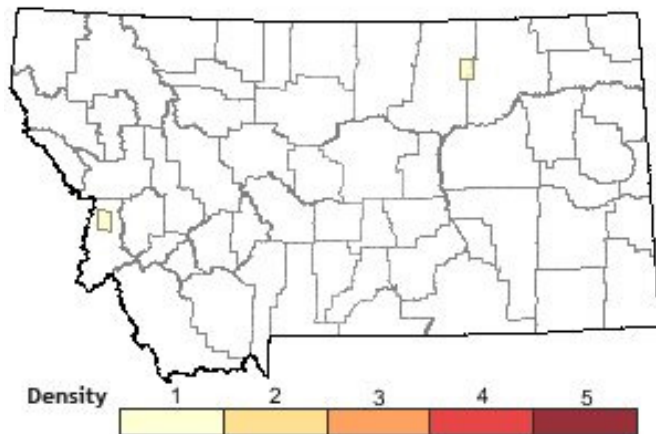
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2

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# Crested Caracara - *Caracara cheriway*



**Accidental Species**

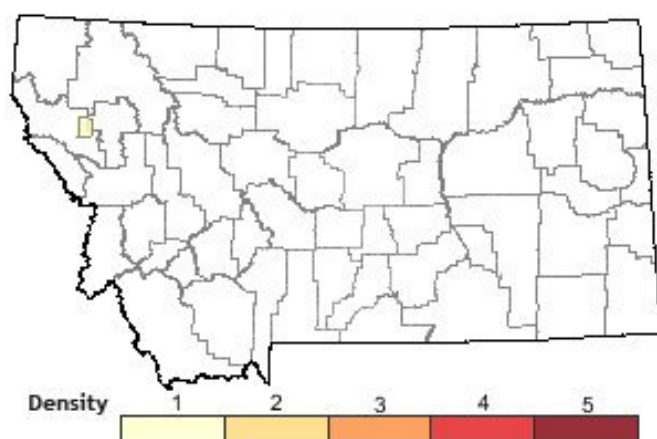
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

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# Curlew Sandpiper - *Calidris ferruginea*



**Accidental Species**

**Global Rank:** G5?

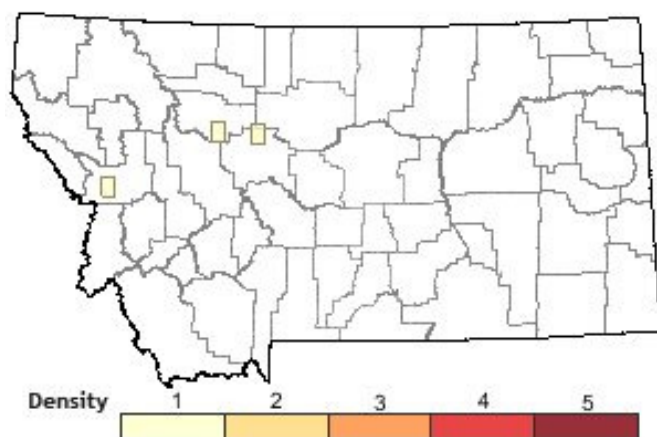
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3

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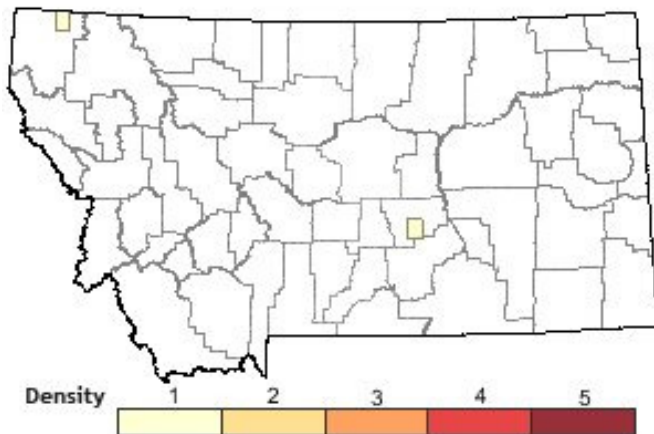
## Curve-billed Thrasher - *Toxostoma curvirostre*



**Accidental Species**

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2

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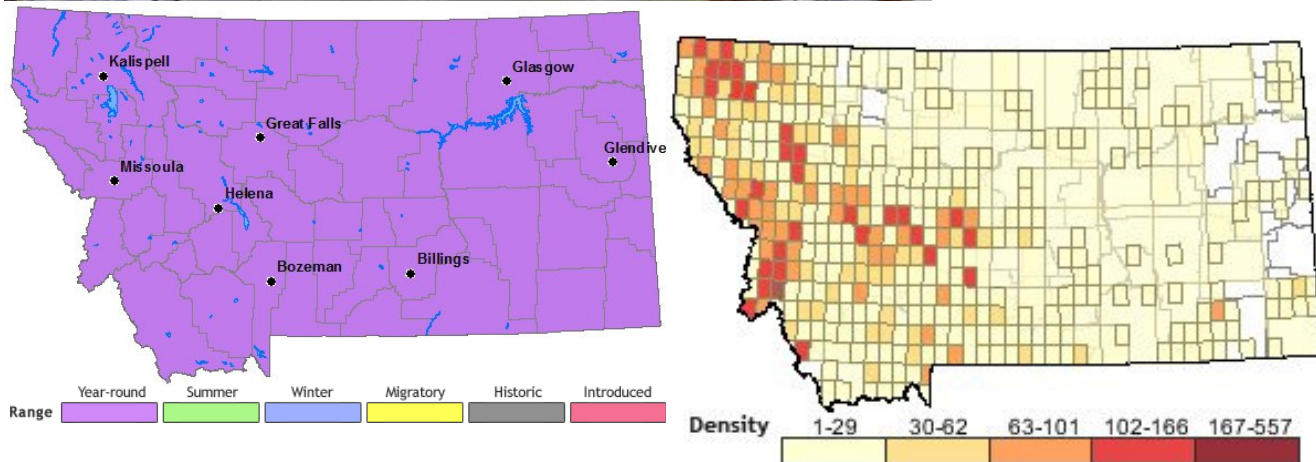


# Dark-eyed Junco - *Junco hyemalis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 22354

## General Description

Medium-sized songbird. Plumage is characterized by white outer tail-feathers that flash when the bird takes flight and by a gray or blackish "hood" (head, nape, throat) and dark back that contrast with its whitish breast and belly. Exhibits marked geographic variation in plumage coloration and moderate variation in size with intergradations between the five distinctive groups. Identification of most groups is well covered by Howell and Webb (1995), Rising (1996), Dickinson (1999), and Sibley (2000) (Nolan et al. 2002).

## Habitat

Occurs across the continent from northern Alaska south to northern Mexico. Conspicuous ground-foraging flocks are often found in suburbs (especially at feeders), at edges of parks and similar landscaped areas, around farms, and along rural roadsides and stream edges (Nolan et al. 2002).

# Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed) - *Junco hyemalis caniceps*



**Accidental Species**

**Global Rank:** G5T5

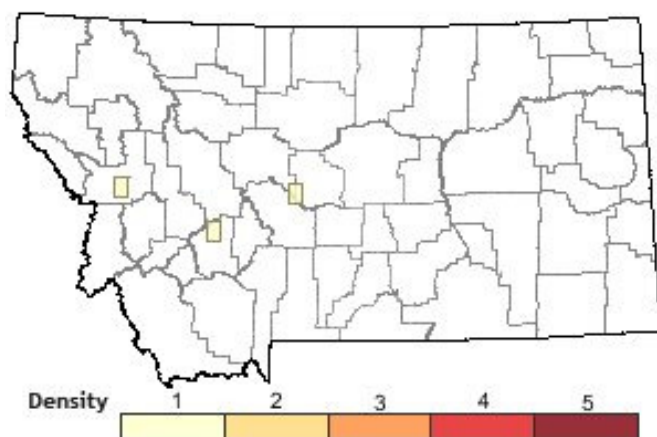
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3

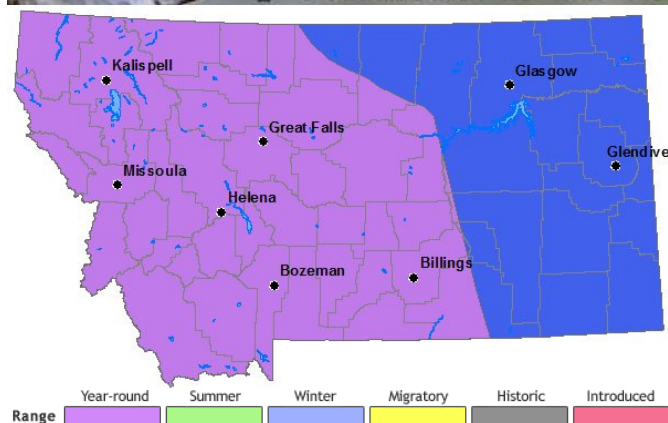
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## Dark-eyed Junco (Montana) - *Junco hyemalis montanus*

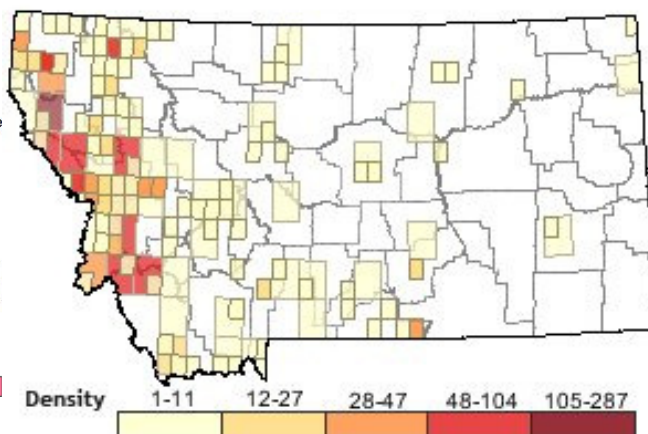


**Global Rank:** G5TNR  
**State Rank:** SNR

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



Range    Year-round    Summer    Winter    Migratory    Historic    Introduced



Density    1-11    12-27    28-47    48-104    105-287

**Number of Observations:** 4589

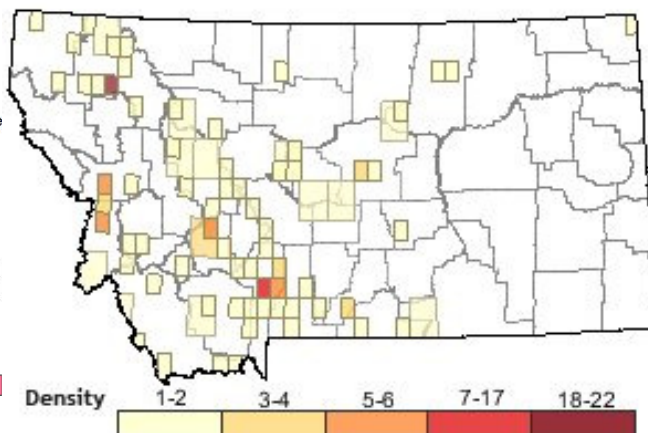
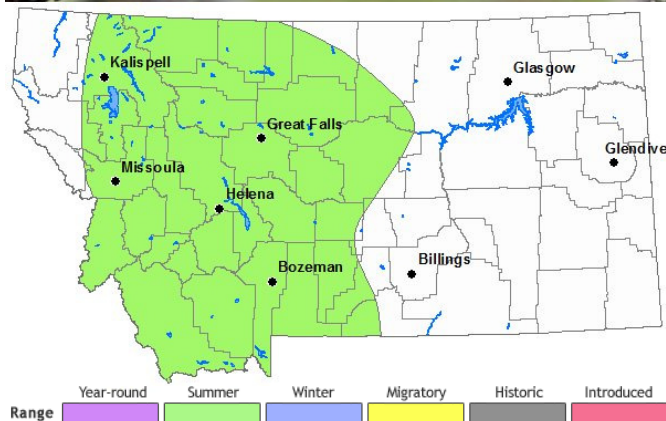
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# Dark-eyed Junco (Pink-sided) - *Junco hyemalis mearnsi*



**Global Rank:** G5TNR  
**State Rank:** SNR

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 184

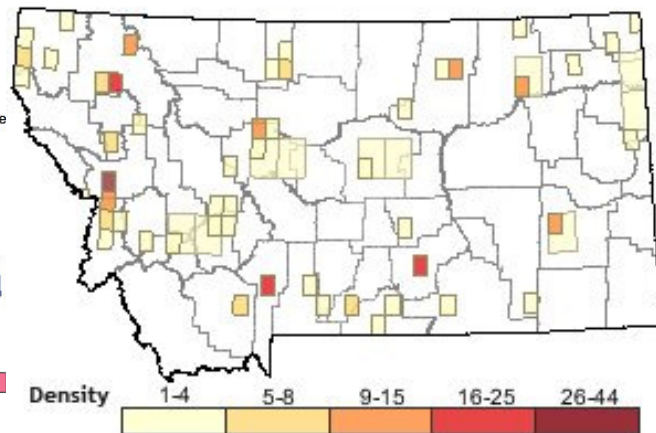
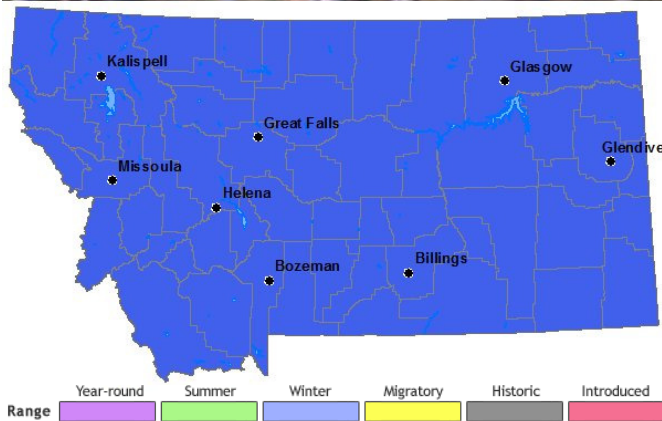


# Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) - *Junco hyemalis hyemalis* / *cismontanus*



**Global Rank:** G5T5  
**State Rank:** SNR

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



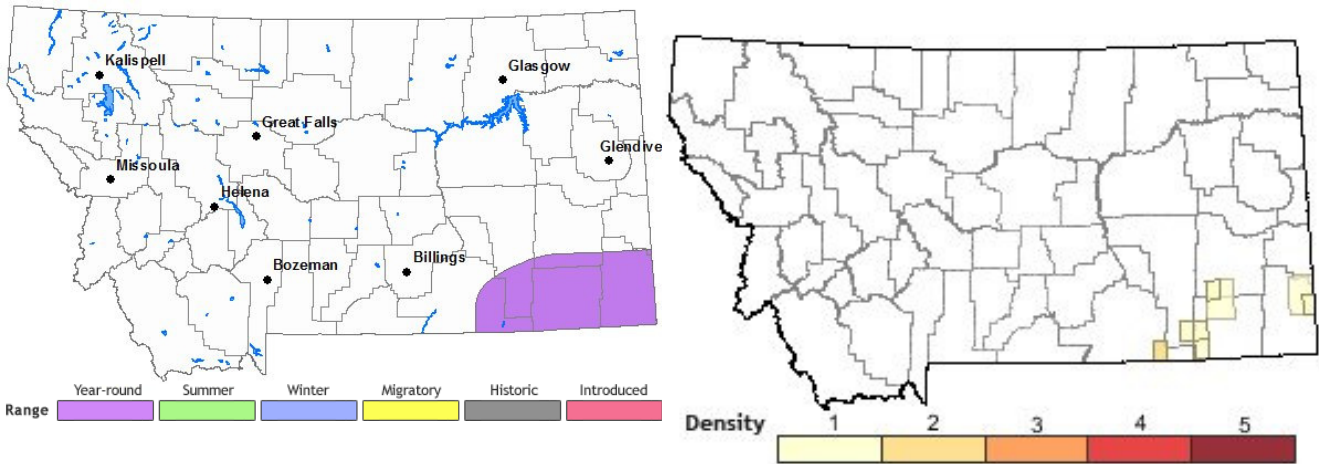
**Number of Observations:** 401

# Dark-eyed Junco (White-winged) - *Junco hyemalis aikenii*



Global Rank: G5T4  
State Rank: SNR

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



Number of Observations: 9

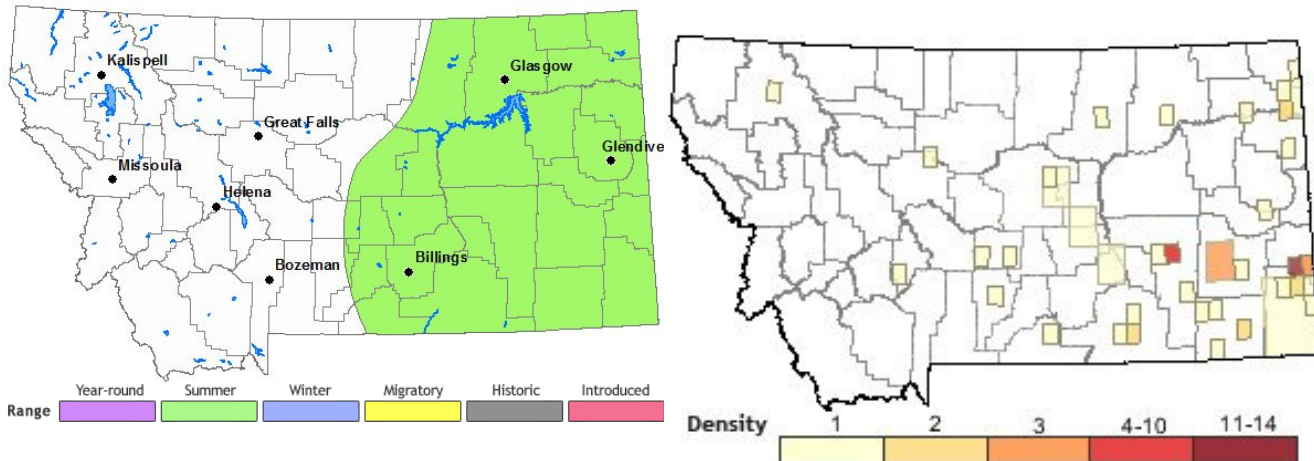
## Dickcissel - *Spiza americana*



### Potential Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 68

### General Description

The Dickcissel is a sparrow-sized bird about 6 inches long with males about 10 to 20% larger than females (Temple 2002). Males have an overall grayish head with a striking yellow line above the eye (supercilium). The chin is white, bordered by yellow malar stripes with a black throat patch beneath. Males also have lateral throat stripes on either side of the black patch. The breast is bright yellow and the belly is white-gray. The back is streaked brownish and the tail and wings are blackish. The wings also have a significant brown or chestnut color at the shoulders (Temple 2002). Adult females have a less distinct head and facial pattern with no black throat patch, smaller, less obvious lateral throat stripes and a duller yellow breast. Also, the chestnut colored shoulder patches are much more pale compared to the adult male (Temple 2002). Immature Dickcissels are fairly similar in appearance to the adult female, but have a drabber plumage than the adult female (Temple 2002).

The song of the male Dickcissel is obvious when heard, as the bird appears to state its own name by singing "dick, dick, cissel" or "see, see, dick, dick, ciss, ciss, ciss" (National Geographic Society 1987, Temple 2002). The flight call, given by both sexes is often described as an electric buzz or buzzer-like "bzrrrt" or "fpptt."

### Habitat

No specific habitat information for Montana is currently available, as systematic surveys for Dickcissels have not been done. Habitat information from other Dickcissel sources state that breeding habitat is grasslands, meadows, savanna, cultivated lands, and brushy fields (American Ornithologists Union 1998). They nest on the ground in grass or rank herbage, or raised a little above ground, in grass tufts or tall weeds, or in low shrubs or trees, up to about 2 meters above the ground but usually low (Harrison 1978). They prefer habitat with dense, moderate to tall vegetation (particularly with some forbs) and moderately deep litter. Suitable habitats are found in old fields, hayfields, fencerows, hedgerows, road rights-of-way, planted cover (e.g., Conservation Reserve Program [CRP] fields and dense nesting cover), and moderately grazed and idle prairie. A high abundance of forbs provides perches, nesting cover, nest support, and possibly increased invertebrate abundance.

Nests are elevated in grasses, forbs, shrubs, or trees, and less commonly on the ground in thick vegetation (Gross 1921, Overmire 1962, 1963, Meanley 1963, Zimmerman 1966, Blankespoor 1970, Fretwell 1977, Frawley 1989, Winter 1998). Nest heights range from 0 to 2 meters (Taber 1947, Ely 1957, Meanley 1963, Von Steen 1965, Gross 1968, Berry 1971, Roth 1980, Laubach 1984, Winter 1998). Hayland is used more frequently for nesting than cropland (Gross 1968, Faanes and Lingle 1995). Occasionally they will nest in strip cover such as roadside ditches, fencerows, and grassed waterways (Gross 1921, Meanley 1963, Basore et al. 1986, Bryan and Best 1991, 1994, Camp and Best 1994, Warner 1994). Nests in road rights-of-way or other edge habitats, however, can experience high rates of depredation (Basore et al. 1986, Camp and Best 1994).

The non-breeding habitat of Dickcissels consists mainly of a variety of open habitats, second growth, and scrub (American Ornithologists Union 1998). They are also often found in rice-growing regions in winter (Ehrlich et al. 1992). They prefer to roost in sugarcane (*Saccharum spp.*) fields, but if not available, they will utilize bamboo, cattail marshes, grasses, and shrubs (Basili and Temple 1999).

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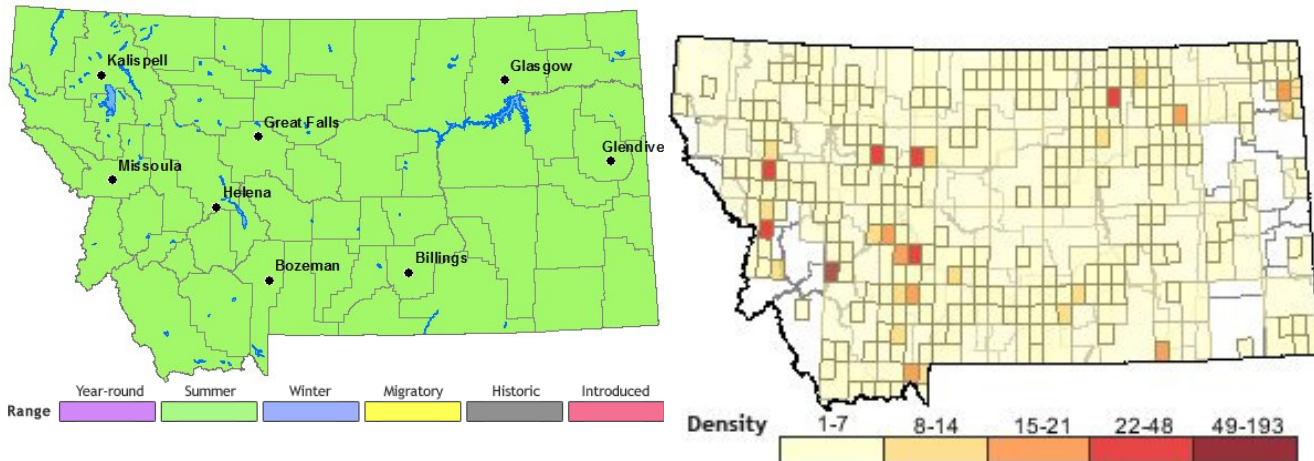


# Double-crested Cormorant - *Phalacrocorax auritus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1797

## General Description

Large, dark cormorant. Typical length 70 to 90cm, body mass 1.2 to 2.5 kg. Sexes are alike. Males are slightly larger than females. Adults have black or dark-brown plumage, with a dull greenish or bronze gloss. The orange-yellow skin of face and throat is distinctive throughout the year. The "double crest" feathers are variable and are fully developed for only a short time early in the year. This is the only seasonal change. Has totipalmate feet in which all 4 toes are connected by web (Hatch and Weseloh 1999).

## Habitat

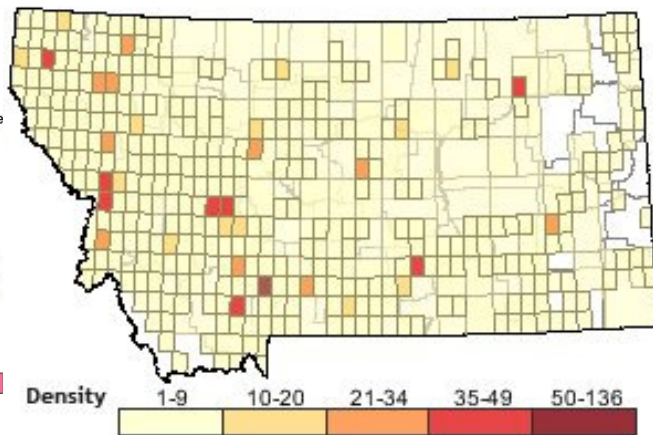
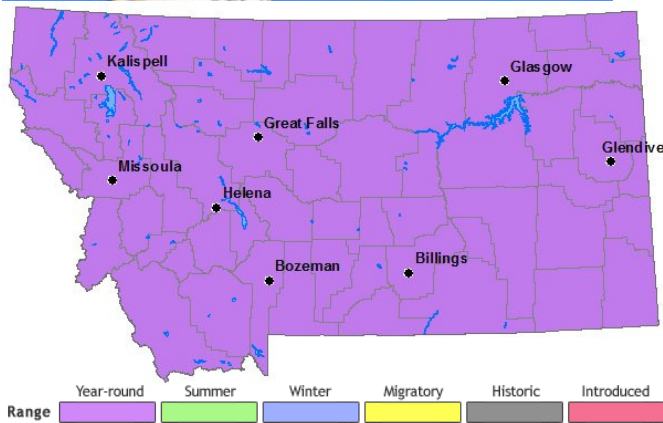
Occupies diverse aquatic habitats in all seasons. Requires, in addition to feeding habitats, suitable places for daytime resting or loafing and nighttime roosts (Hatch and Weseloh 1999).

# Downy Woodpecker - *Picoides pubescens*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2754

## General Description

Sexes similar for the most part. Only difference is males have a bright red spot on the back of their head. White and black striped face. White under-belly with black and white checked wings. Relatively small size with smaller, stubbier bill.

## Habitat

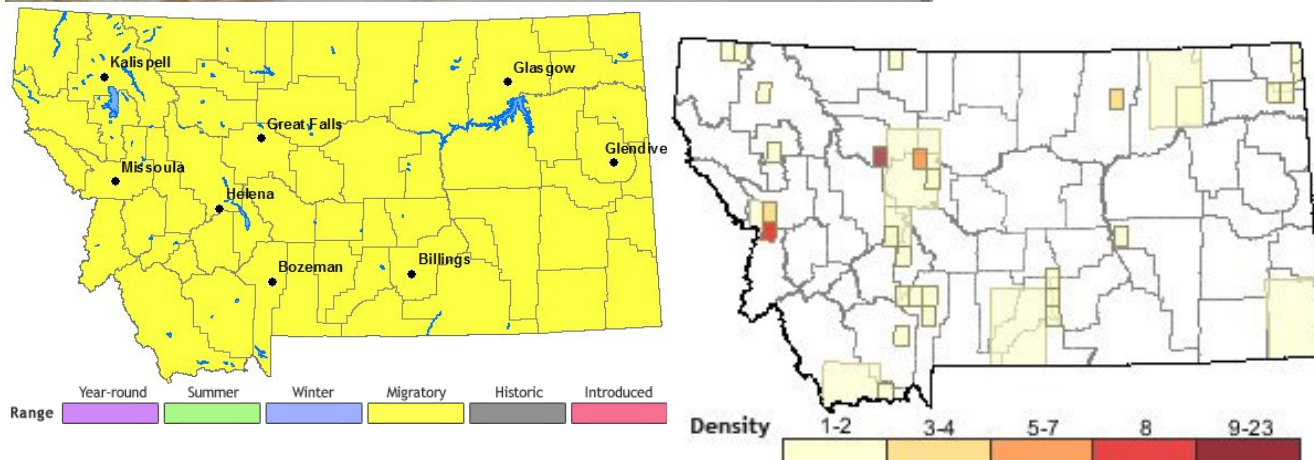
Prefers open riparian and deciduous woodlands throughout its entire range. Also uses wooden human-made structures in urban areas.

## Dunlin - *Calidris alpina*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 93

### General Description

Long, black legs with long, decurved bill. Black belly, rufous cap, and bright rufous brown back. Few differences in plumage in sexes. Males have darker bellies and grayer faces, while females are bigger in size.

### Habitat

Migrant birds are usually seen on mud flats or sandy beaches (Johnsgard 1986).

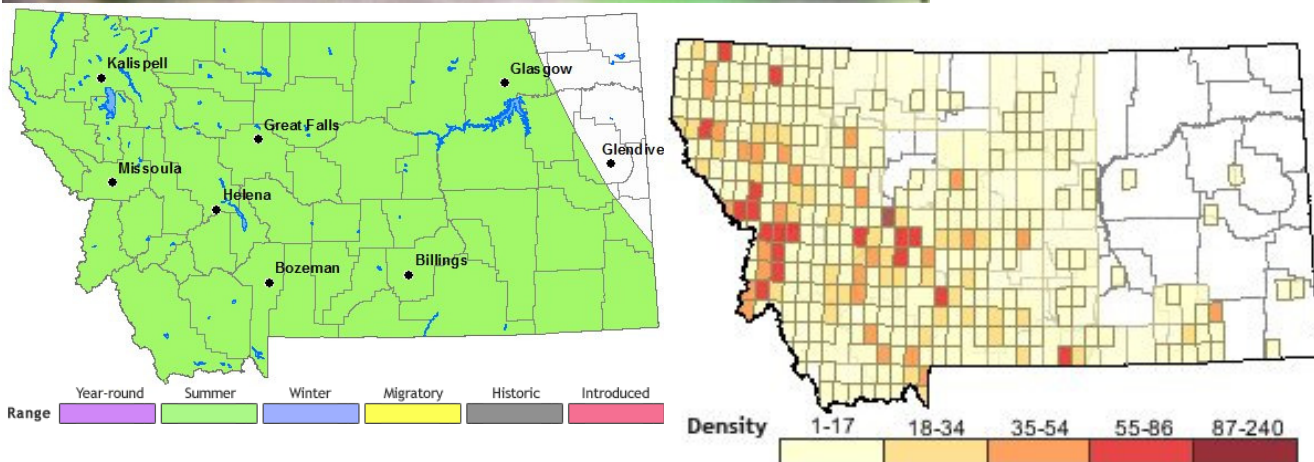


# Dusky Flycatcher - *Empidonax oberholseri*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 8869

## General Description

Small, 13 to 15.2 cm, 9.3 to 11.4 g. Sexually monomorphic. Upperparts grayish olive to grayish brown; underparts mostly whitish with a varying amount of yellow wash; throat whitish; outer tail feathers have whitish edges. Conspicuous eye-ring which may extend forward to the lores, appearing almost as spectacles in some. Wing bars usually whitish and fairly narrow. Bill is mostly dusky in adults (pale orangish at base of lower mandible) (Sedgwick 1993).

## Habitat

Inhabits open coniferous forest, mountain chaparral, aspen groves, streamside willow thickets and brushy open areas (Sedgwick 1993). In Montana, brushy, logged over slopes seem to be favored habitat (Johnsgard 1986).

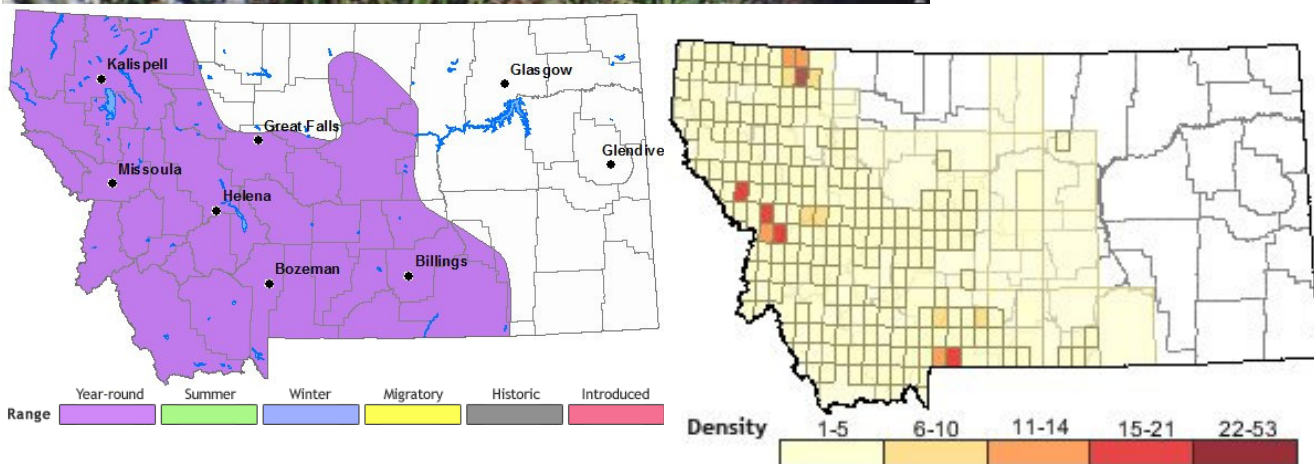


# Dusky Grouse - *Dendragapus obscurus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 814

## General Description

The Dusky Grouse (until recently known as the Blue Grouse) is the largest of Montana's three species of mountain grouse. Both sexes have long, square tails which are unbarred. Males have slate-colored upper parts, white-based neck feathers around the air sacs, and yellow-orange eye combs. Females tend to be browner than males and have barring on the head, neck, and back. Both sexes have uniform blue-gray breasts and bellies, and feathered legs. Adult males range from 18.5 to 22.5 inches in length and 2.5 to 3 pounds in weight; adult females range from 17 to 19 inches in length and average about 2 pounds in weight.

## Habitat

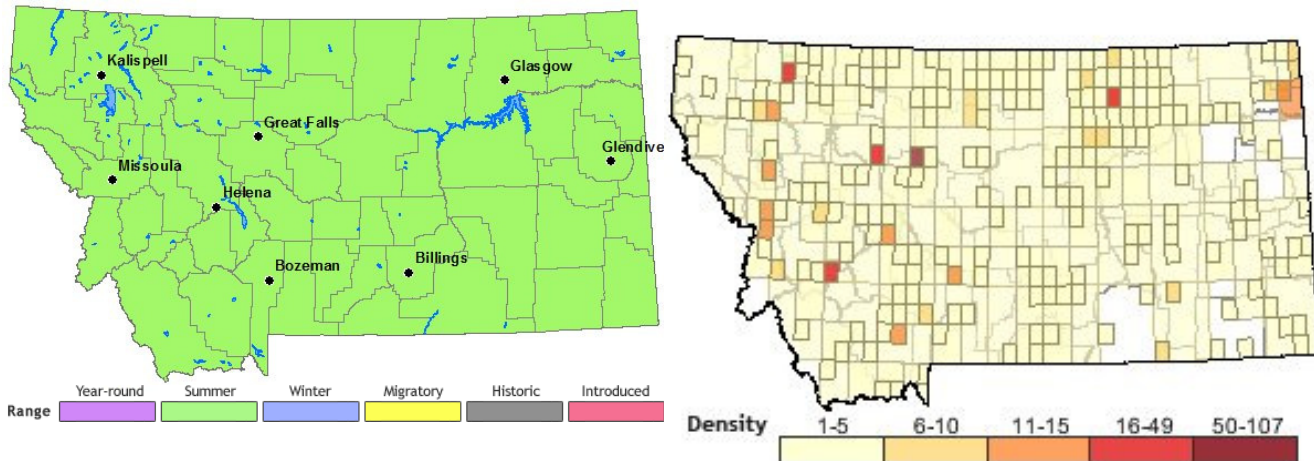
Dusky Grouse winter at high elevations in conifer stands. In early spring, they descend to lower altitudes, where they prefer forest edges and openings. Broods may be found quite far from timber during summer and early fall. In the Bridger Mountains in early summer, broods were often observed in grass-forb areas (with arrow-leaf balsamroot being dominant); increased use of deciduous thickets was observed in late July to August (Mussehl 1958). See also Martinka 1970 for habitat comments from the Sapphire Mountains.

# Eared Grebe - *Podiceps nigricollis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1329

## General Description

Basic plumage of the Eared Grebe is blackish top of head, back of neck, and mantle; rump white; sides, flanks, and front of neck grayish; chin, throat, and belly white; iris is bright red throughout the year (Cullen and Nuechterlein, 1999).

## Habitat

Shallow lakes and ponds with vegetation and macroinvertebrate communities, rarely on ponds with fish. They prefer saline habitats at all seasons, allowing them to escape fish predators and have an abundance of invertebrates (Cullen and Nuechterlein, 1999).

# Eastern Bluebird - *Sialia sialis*



## Potential Species of Concern

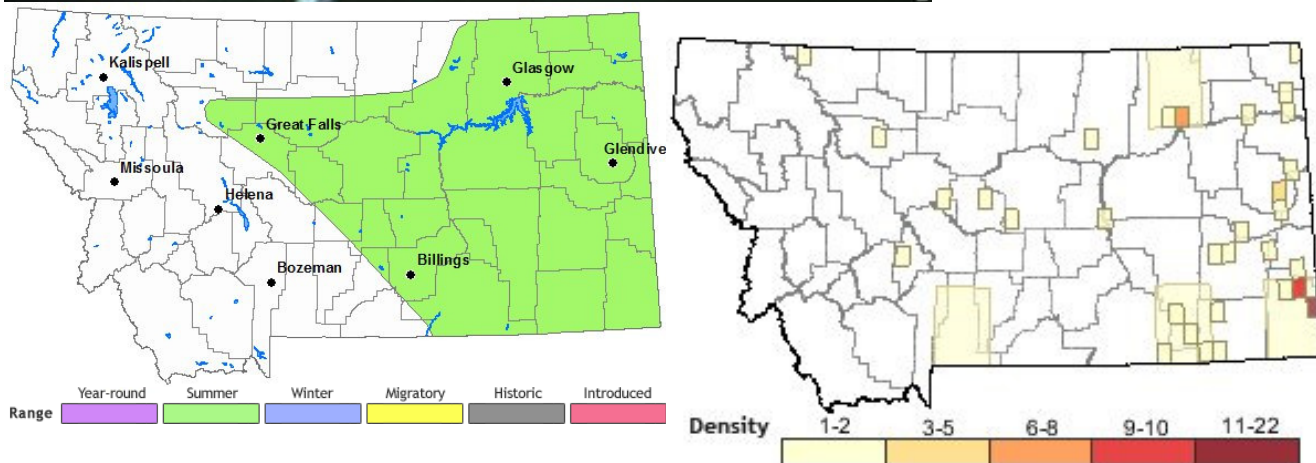
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

### Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 85

## General Description

The Eastern Bluebird is a small thrush (16 to 21 cm long) with a wingspan of approximately 33 cm. The male has a bright blue back, head, wings, and tail. The throat, sides of the neck, and upper breast are orange, with the orange on the breast extending down the flanks. The white belly is bright and apparent. The female is similarly colored, but is duller overall. The head and back are more of a gray or gray-blue than blue, but the wings and tail are primarily blue. Unlike the male, the female has a white throat. On both sexes, the eye is black, and the bill is dark and stout, with a yellow gape (Gowaty and Plissner 1998, Sibley 2000).

Vocalization of the Eastern Bluebird is described as a song of mellow whistles sounding somewhat like "*chiti WEEW wewidoo*" or "*Tu-a-wee*" (Gowaty and Plissner 1998, Sibley 2000). The male sings loudly from high, conspicuous perches, sometimes during flight (Gowaty and Plissner 1998).

## Habitat

Limited specific information exists on habitat use by Eastern Bluebirds in Montana, but the species may generally be limited to the deciduous trees (primarily cottonwood, *Populus* spp.), along the rivers of eastern Montana, which can provide significant habitat where nest boxes haven't supplanted these natural nesting sites (Johnsgard 1986, Gowaty and Plissner 1998).

Other frequently used habitats can include pastures, roadsides, farmlands, meadows, yards, and other open grassy areas that might provide adequate foraging habitat (Northern Prairie Research Center 2003). Reports of breeding in the state indicate the use of nesting boxes, with other potential nesting sites including old woodpecker holes and natural cavities in riparian forests, shelterbelts, farmsteads and city parks (Johnsgard 1986, Lenard et al. 2003).

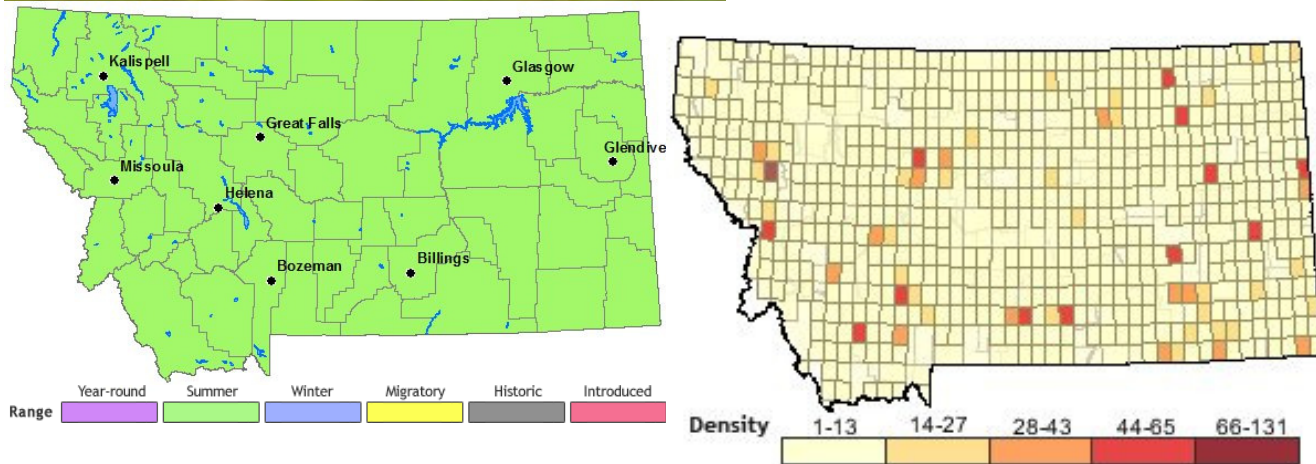


# Eastern Kingbird - *Tyrannus tyrannus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 5728

## General Description

Contrasting black upperparts with white lower parts. Upper chest marked by faint, grayish band; dark black head often slightly crested, especially in males.

## Habitat

Species prefers open environments along forest edges and fields. Also orchards and scattered shrubs and trees favorable.



# Eastern Meadowlark - *Sturnella magna*



**Accidental Species**

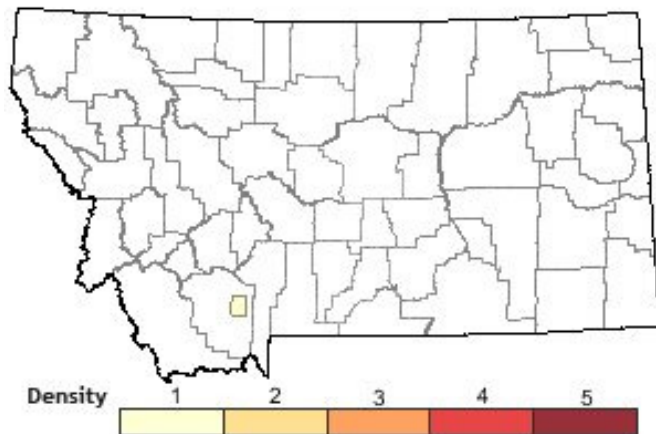
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

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# Eastern Phoebe - *Sayornis phoebe*



**Accidental Species**

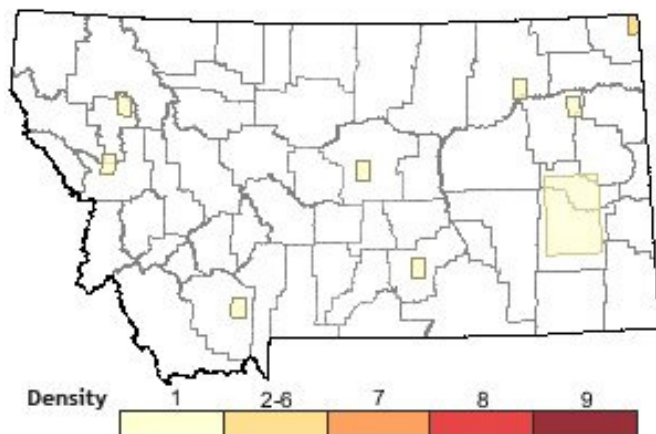
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 14

## General Description \_\_\_\_\_

See Conrad and Robertson (1993) for information on the relationship of age and sex to size and color.

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# Eastern Screech-Owl - *Megascops asio*



## Potential Species of Concern

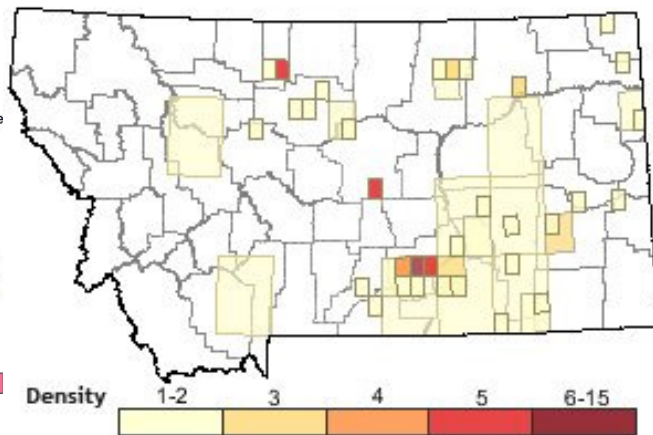
Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: S3S4

### Agency Status

USFWS:

USFS:

BLM:



Number of Observations: 95

## General Description

In the Eastern Screech-Owl, tufts are present, the eyes are yellow, the bill yellow-green or yellow-white. The facial disk is gray-white surrounded by black fringe. Ventrally, they are pale brown to whitish with scattered dark brown streaks extending from the chest along the sides and flanks. Dorsally, they are buffy-gray throughout. Also, Eastern Screech-Owls inhabiting deciduous forests of the eastern United States have a rufous (rust) color phase. A specimen of this color phase has yet to be secured in Montana. The size is eight to ten inches. The weight is six to seven ounces. The voice has two parts. The first part is a quavering, drawn out ascending whistle, "Wheeeee" similar to a horse's whinny. The second part is a vibrating low whistle, "Quohohoho" run together. Calls are short.

## Habitat

Habitat is primarily cottonwood bottoms.

# Eastern Towhee - *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*



**Accidental Species**

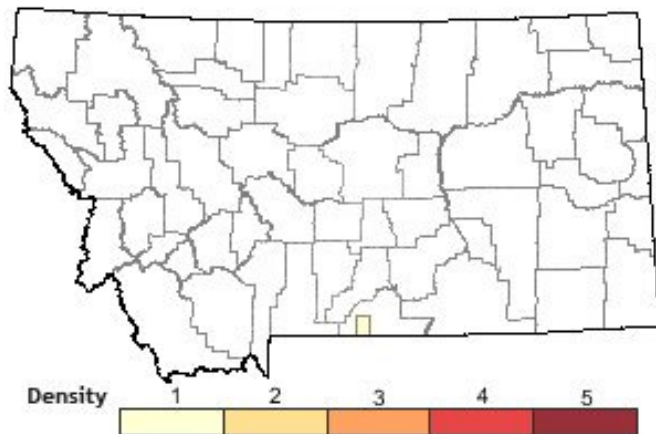
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

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# Eastern Wood-Pewee - *Contopus virens*



**Accidental Species**

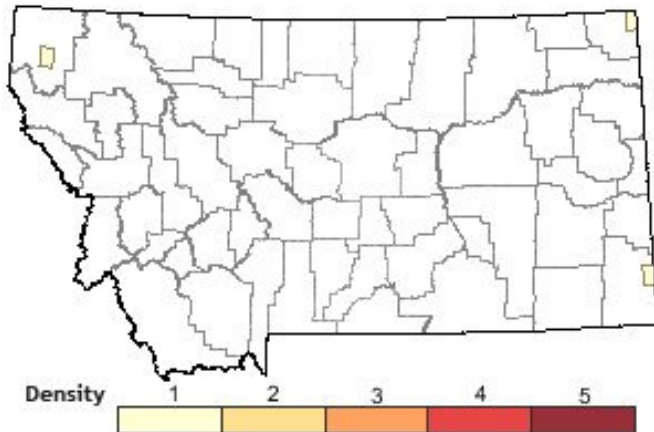
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3

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# Eurasian Collared-Dove - *Streptopelia decaocto*



**Exotic Species (not native to Montana)**

**Global Rank:** G5

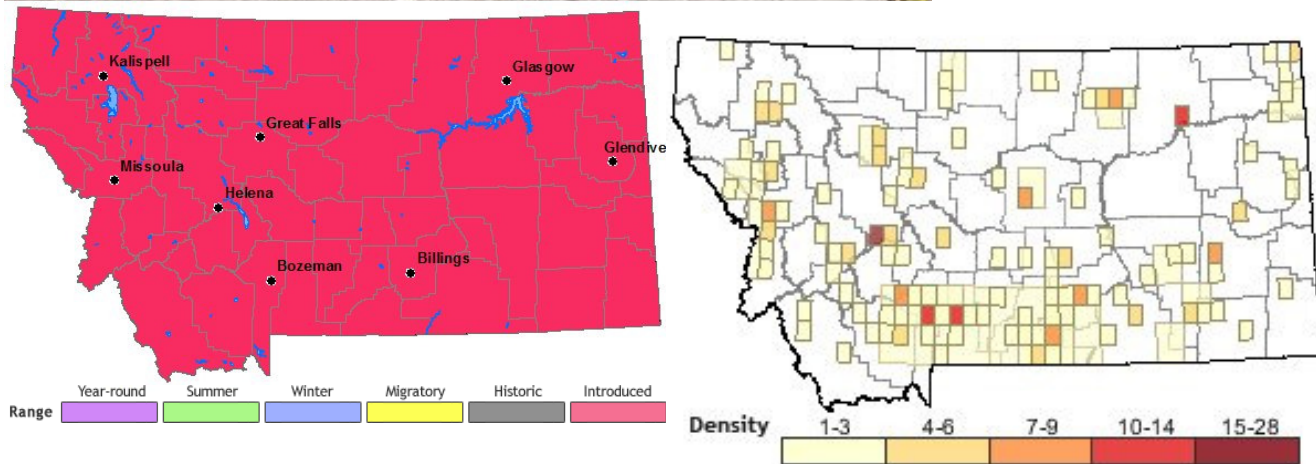
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



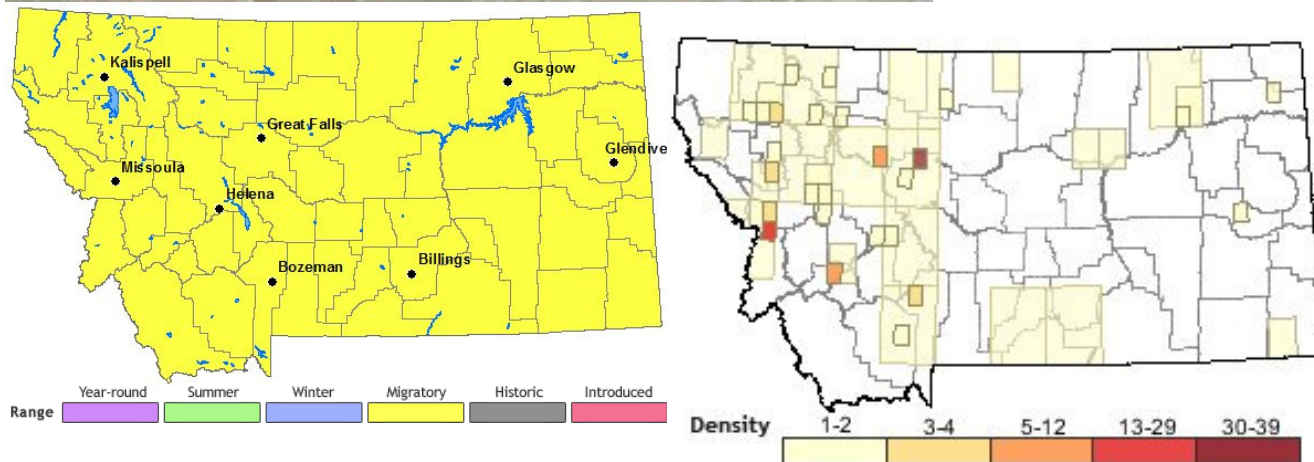
**Number of Observations:** 464

## Eurasian Wigeon - *Anas penelope*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 170

# European Starling - *Sturnus vulgaris*



**Exotic Species (not native to Montana)**

**Global Rank: G5**

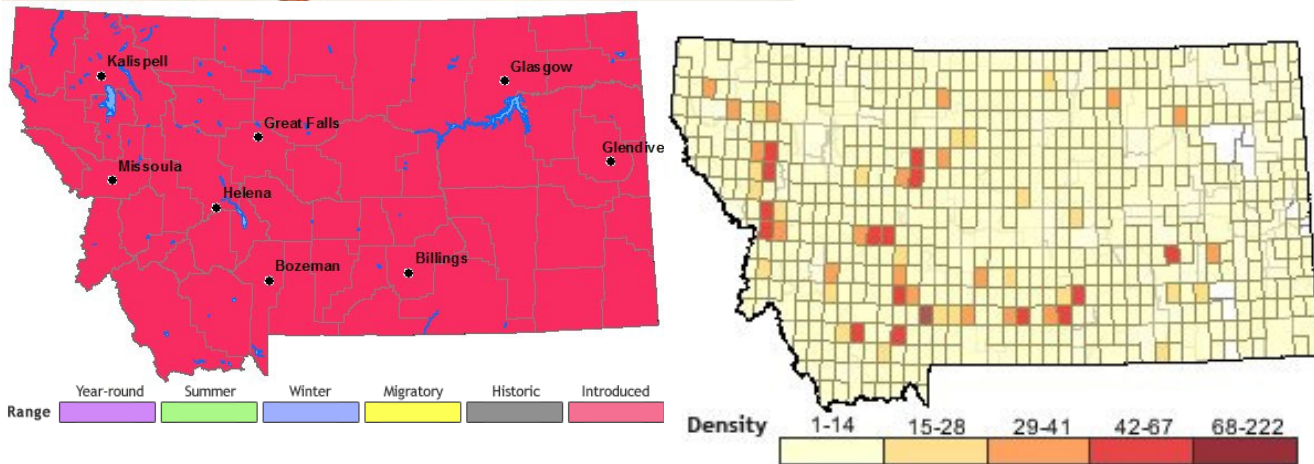
**State Rank: SNA**

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations: 6321**

## General Description

A compact, stocky passerine, easily recognized by its predominantly glossy black plumage and short, squared tail, pointed wings, and long bill. Body plumage shows purple and greenish iridescence, especially on the head, back, and breast. After molt most of the head and body feathers have whitish or buff terminal spots. Sexes are similar. It is distinguished from the North American blackbirds in the spring by the yellow bill (Cabe 1993).

## Habitat

Owing to their close association with man and behavioral plasticity, European Starling inhabit a wide variety of areas if a few crucial needs are met. They forage in open country on short, mown, or grazed fields - abundantly available in urban as well as agricultural areas. These areas also provide the necessary food resources, nesting cavities, and water (Cabe 1993).



# Evening Grosbeak - *Coccothraustes vespertinus*



## Species of Concern

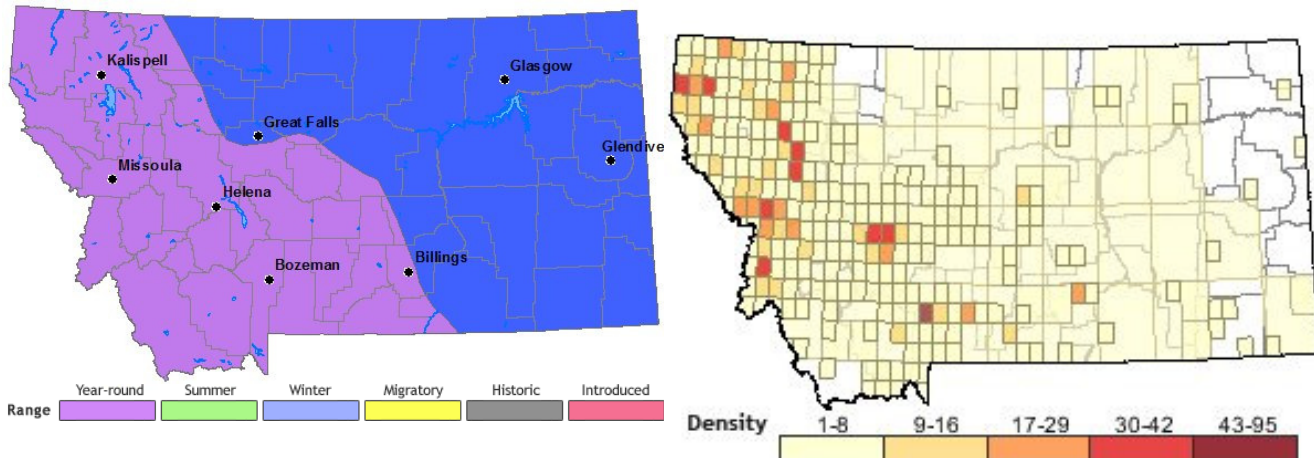
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2822

## General Description

A large (20-cm-long), robust finch with a large thick bill (pale yellow or greenish in spring and summer, whitish in fall and winter), black tail, black wings with white patch on inner wing, and yellow wing linings; adult male has yellow forehead and eyebrow, and dark brown and yellow body; female is grayish-tan, with a thin dark whisker stripe, white-tipped tail, and a conspicuous (in flight) second white patch on the primaries; juvenile has a brown bill, with each sex resembling the adult of the same sex (though juvenile male is significantly duller than adult male); loud call, "clee-ip" or "peer".

## Habitat

In the Rocky Mountains, common in mixed-conifer and spruce-fir forests; less common in pine-oak, pinon, Cascadian, ponderosa pine and aspen forests. Less closely tied to coniferous tree species than other carduelines. Also uses deciduous species for nesting and food (Gillihan and Byers 2001).

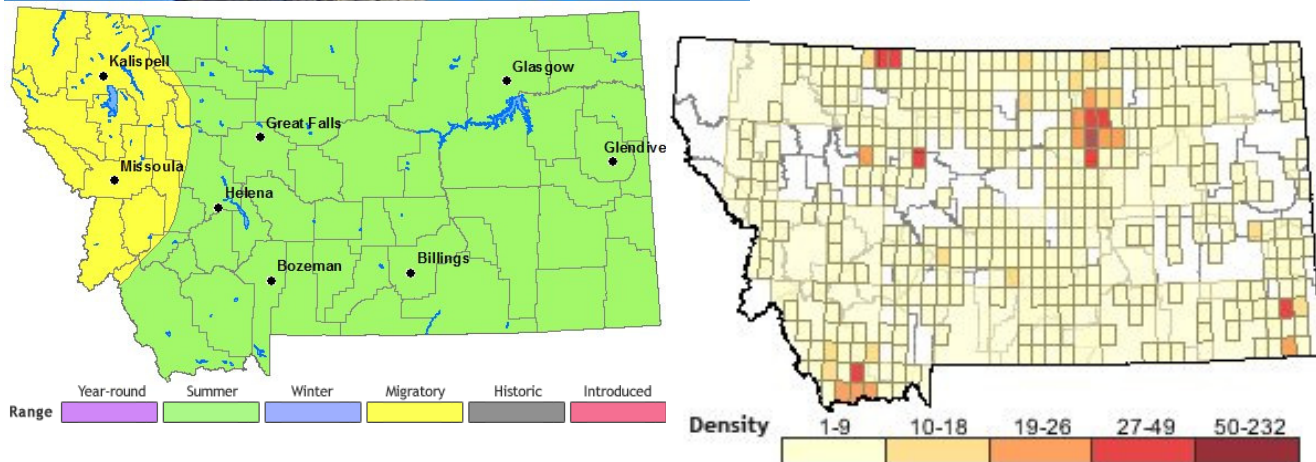
# Ferruginous Hawk - *Buteo regalis*



## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S3B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 2853

## General Description

Ferruginous Hawks have rusty backs and shoulders, pale heads, and white tails washed with pale rust. They have a white patch at the base of the flight feathers on the upper wing surface. Their wings are brown above and white below. The rusty legs of the adult form a dark V contrasted with whitish underparts. Ferruginous Hawks usually appear very light-colored when viewed from a distance. The uncommon dark phase lacks dark tail bands and are dark brown on the body, but still have the whitish tail. The species averages 58 cm long with a 135 cm wingspan. Immature birds are brown instead of rust, and have brown streaking on the undersides.

## Habitat

The habitat of Ferruginous Hawks in Montana has been studied extensively (Ensign 1983, Restani 1989, 1991, De Velice 1990, Wittenhagen 1992, Black 1992, Atkinson 1992, 1993) and described as mixed-grass prairie, shrub-grasslands, grasslands, grass-sagebrush complex, and sagebrush steppe. In southeastern Montana, Ensign (1983) reported mixed-grass prairie with greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) and big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) in uplands and drainages. Other shrub and tree species present in the habitat were junipers (*Juniperus* spp.), cottonwoods (*Populus* spp.), willows (*Salix* spp.), and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). Also in southeastern Montana, Wittenhagen (1992) reported Ferruginous Hawk habitat to consist of shrub-grasslands with big sagebrush

present as well as wheatgrasses. The Kevin Rim area of north-central Montana has been categorized as grasslands dominated by bluebunch and western wheatgrass, blue gramma, and other grasses (De Velice 1990). Habitat also exists for Ferruginous Hawks in the Centennial Valley in the southwestern portion of the state. Restani (1989, 1991) reported grass-sagebrush complexes on mid-elevation slopes to be where most hawks nested. These complexes included sagebrush species and rabbitbrush as overstory to wheatgrasses, needle-and-thread grass, and junegrass. Also in southwestern Montana, Atkinson (1992, 1993) described the preferred habitat as sagebrush steppe over foothill prairie or mountain mahogany. Black (1992) surveyed Ferruginous Hawk habitat in Phillips County and reported the habitat to be 69% grassland, 25% shrubland and 13% bare area.

Nest location studies have also described the habitat Ferruginous Hawks use during the breeding season. In southwestern Montana, sagebrush (*Artemisia*) and grasslands predominated within 100 meters of nests (Atkinson 1992). Ground nests in northern Montana were located in grass-dominated, rolling (more than 10 percent slope) rangeland. In cultivated areas (20 percent) in north-central Montana, nests closer to cultivated fields and roads were more successful, presumably because of higher prey densities associated with edge habitats (Zelenak and Rotella 1997). Nests in southwestern Montana were significantly oriented toward the south (Atkinson 1992). Nests on rock outcrops in Montana were built on slopes averaging 62.8 percent and were found on the upper 35 percent of the slope (Atkinson 1992). Ground nests in northern Montana were located either on the top of a small rise or on slopes ranging from 10 to 50 percent (Black 1992). The average height of ground nests below the highest surrounding topographic feature was 10 meters, whereas the average height of ground nest sites above the valley floor was 10.4 meters, indicating that nests were placed at mid-elevation sites within the immediate topography (Black 1992).

Ferruginous Hawks do not appear to nest in areas converted to agriculture (Schmutz 1984, Jasikoff 1982). A study done in Petroleum and Fergus counties seems to support this statement. Rogers and Rogers (1995) reported direct observations of Ferruginous Hawks avoiding crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*) fields as nesting locations. They concluded few prey resources in such monotypic croplands as the reason for not nesting in these habitats.

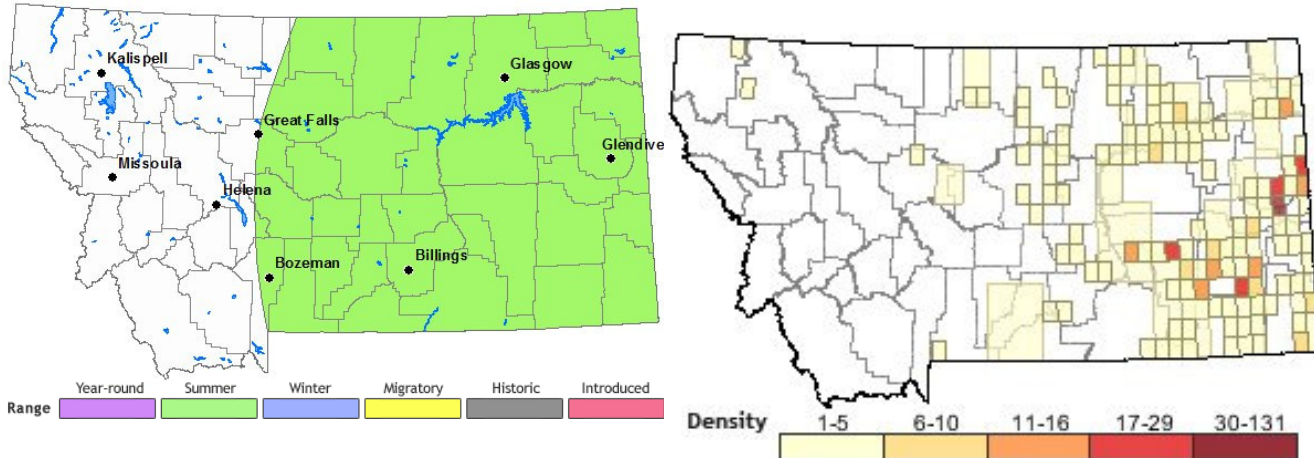
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## Field Sparrow - *Spizella pusilla*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 826

### General Description

Adults sexually monomorphic. Crown and back rusty-brown, sides of head light gray. White eye-ring with rusty-brown streak behind eye and on ear coverts. Greater and middle wing coverts tipped with white forming two wing bands. Tail brown, feathers edged with pale gray. Underparts whitish to pale gray, unstreaked. Pinkish bill and legs are distinctive. Juveniles duller in color (Carey et al. 1994).

### Habitat

Generally in successional old fields, woodland openings and edges, roadsides and railroads near open fields of eastern United States and southern Canada. Does not breed close to human habitation (Carey et al. 1994).



# Flammulated Owl - *Otus flammeolus*

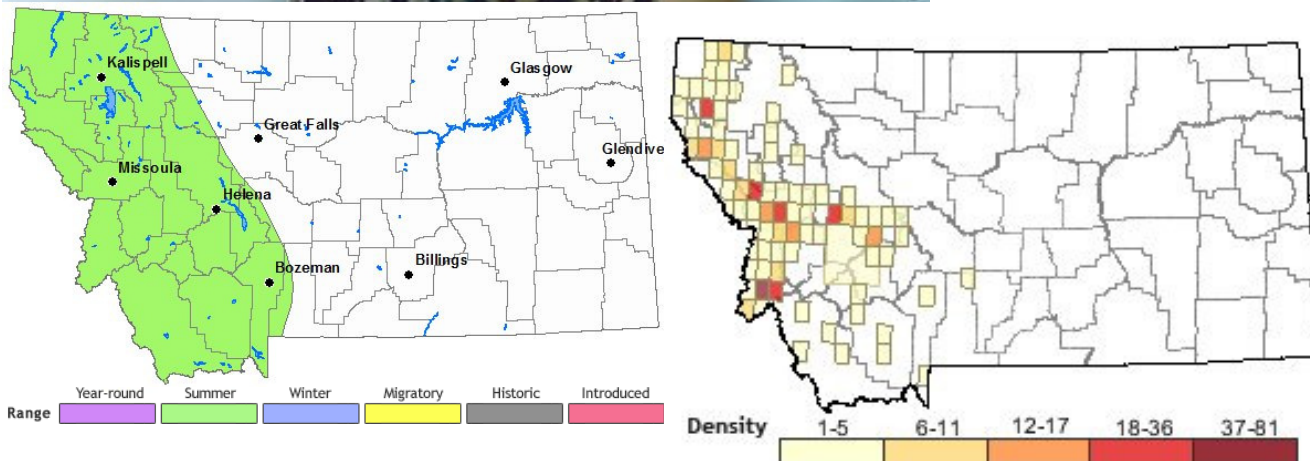


## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**  
**USFS:** SENSITIVE  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 668

## General Description

At 6.75 inches and only 60 grams, Flammulated Owls are one of the smallest owls in North America. Only Elf Owls (*Micrathene whitneyi*) are smaller. Other than females being somewhat larger than males, the sexes are extremely similar in appearance. The species has short ear tufts and an incomplete facial disk beginning at the ears and ending at the moustache. The eyes are dark. The wings are longer and more pointed in comparison to other species in the genus. The plumage of Flammulated Owls is gray with dark streaks and crossbars (McCallum 1994). Also, some rufous coloration is visible, especially near the face and on the shoulders. It is unsure whether a distinct red phase exists.

Flammulated Owls are usually heard more often than seen. The song of the male is described as a low-pitched, short, soft hoot like "poop" or "pooip" which is repeated every two to three seconds (Sibley 2000). Females are usually higher-pitched, longer in duration, and more quavering (McCallum 1994).

## Habitat

Information on breeding habitat in Montana is limited to one study in the Bitterroot Valley (Wright 2000). In Montana, Flammulated Owls are associated with mature and old-growth xeric ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir stands (Holt and Hillis 1987, Wright et al. 1997) and in landscapes with higher proportions of suitable forest and forest with low to moderate canopy closure (Wright et al. 1997). They are absent from warm and humid pine forests and mesic ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir (McCallum 1994a, Wright et al. 1997). Information gathered from other studies throughout their range suggest the breeding habitat of Flammulated Owls is montane forest; usually open conifer forests containing pine, with some brush or saplings (typical of the physiognomy of pre-European settlement ponderosa pine forests). The species shows a strong preference for ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Jeffrey pine (*P. jeffreyi*) throughout its range (McCallum 1994b). They prefer mature growth with open canopy avoiding dense young stands. Flammulated Owls are found in a cooler, semi-arid climate, with a high abundance of nocturnal arthropod prey and some dense foliage for roosting (McCallum 1994a). Most often they are found on ridges and

upper slopes (Bull et al. 1990, Groves et al. 1997).

In British Columbia, Flammulated Owls use dry interior Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) where ponderosa pine may be a codominant, but pure ponderosa pine is avoided. Also sometimes they are in pure aspen and, locally, in spruce (*Picea* sp.)/Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*)/Douglas-fir. They prefer forests dominated by trees more than 100 years old. The highest densities are found in 140 year-old to more than 200 year-old forests; owls were restricted to forests with multi-layered canopies with an abundance of large, well-spaced trees interspersed with grassy openings up to 2 hectares in size, and where cavity-bearing snags were "moderately common" (Howie and Ritcey 1987, van Woudenberg 1999). A study in the Kamloops area testing a habitat model in Douglas-fir/ponderosa pine found three variables to be significant predictors for occupied habitat: elevation (between 850 and 1,150 meters), age class (older stands), and canopy closure (40 to 50 percent) (Christie and van Woudenberg 1997).

In Idaho, they are found mostly in mature stands of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, or mixtures of the two with relatively open canopies (Atkinson and Atkinson 1990), occasionally in stands of pure Douglas-fir or aspen where ponderosa pine is absent. Sixty-five percent of detections were on upper slopes or ridges. Tree densities were approximately 500 per hectare and the mean DBH (diameter at breast height) for all trees was 32 centimeters (Groves et al. 1997). One nest cavity, excavated by a Northern Flicker, was in a 6.5 meter tall, 34 cm dbh, Douglas-fir snag (Atkinson and Atkinson 1990). In northeast Oregon, nest trees were located in stands of old-growth ponderosa pine or mixed conifers near small clearings (Bull and Anderson 1978). In Colorado, they show strong preference for old-growth ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, using older trees for foraging and singing (Reynolds and Linkhart 1992, Linkhart and Reynolds 1997).

Territories consistently occupied by breeding pairs were those containing the largest portion (more than 75 percent) of old-growth (200 to 400 years), whereas territories occupied by unpaired males and rarely by breeding pairs contained 27 to 68 percent old-growth (Linkhart and Reynolds 1997). Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) is often a component of nesting habitat in Colorado and Nevada (Reynolds and Linkhart 1987b, McCallum 1994b). In northern Utah, the species has successfully nested in nest boxes in montane deciduous forests dominated by aspen with some scattered firs (Marti 1997).

Flammulated Owls prefer to forage in yellow pine and/or Douglas-fir, and these forest types apparently support a particular abundance of favored lepidopteron prey (McCallum 1994b). In Oregon, they forage in ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir types with low to medium stem density, but show particular preference for forest/grassland ecotones (Goggans 1986, cited in McCallum 1994b). In Colorado, they preferred to forage in old-growth (more than 200 years), which was related both to an abundance of lepidopteron prey and to the open crowns and park-like spacing of trees which allowed greater room to maneuver for the owls (Reynolds et al. 1989). The species may focus foraging in a few "intensive foraging areas" within the home range, averaging 1 hectare per range (Linkhart 1984, cited in McCallum 1994b).

Flammulated Owls roost in dense vegetation and thickets that provide shade and protection from predators. They often roost close to trunks in fir or pine trees, or in cavities (McCallum 1994b, USDA Forest Service 1994). In Oregon, they use mixed coniferous forest rather than pure ponderosa pine (Goggans 1986, cited in McCallum 1994a). In Colorado, large Douglas-firs or pines with a spreading form are used (Linkhart 1984, cited in McCallum 1994a). They roost close to nests (20 to 25 meters) during the nestling stage and just before fledging, and farther away before and after (McCallum 1994a). In British Columbia, Flammulated Owls roosted in regenerating thickets of Douglas-fir (Howie and Ritcey 1987). Migration habitat is in wooded and open areas in lowlands and mountains, including riparian areas and breeding habitat (McCallum 1994a).

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# Forster's Tern - *Sterna forsteri*



## Species of Concern

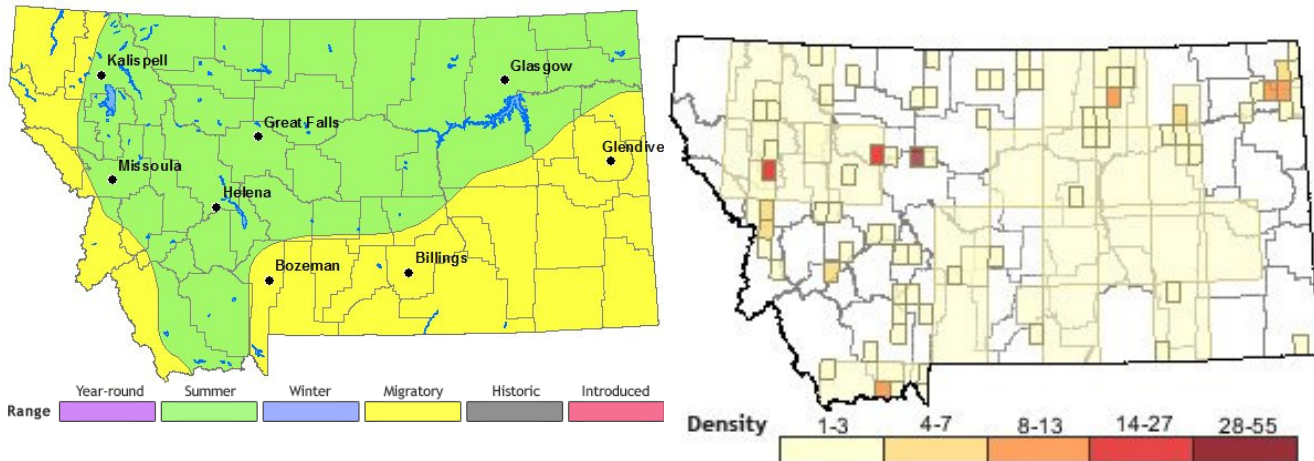
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 367

## General Description

The Forster's Tern is a medium-sized, primarily white tern with a black cap and dark eyes. The back and wings are a pale silvery-gray, contrasting with the white of the neck and belly. The primaries and the deeply forked tail on the breeding adult bird are also a pale gray, with the primaries appearing as white as they become worn. During the breeding season, the large bill is orange and tipped in black, and the legs are bright orange or orange-red. In non-breeding plumage the bill is black and the legs are a duller red-brown (McNicholl et al. 2001). During non-breeding season, the primaries are dark silvery-gray and the crown is white with an evident large black patch encompassing and extending behind the eye (Sibley 2000). The bird is approximately 13 inches (33 cm) in length with a 31 inch (79 cm) wingspan.

The common call of this bird is a simple descending "kerrrr", described as lower and more raspy and wooden-sounding than the Common Tern (Sibley 2000). Sibley (2000) notes the species also has a "kit" or "kuit" common call; a begging "kerr kerr kerr" during courtship; and a very low "zaaar" during defensive attack.

## Habitat

Large marshes with extensive reed beds or Muskrat houses that provide nesting structures are the preferred breeding habitat for the Forster's Tern. It is also occasionally found along marshy borders of lakes and reservoirs in Montana. The species generally nests colonially, with as many as five nests recorded on one Muskrat house (Johnsgard 1986). Preferred nesting locations include both nesting and foraging sites within close proximity. Alkali bulrush (*Scirpus maritimus*) was used as nesting substrate at Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Lenard et al. 2003). A study in the Lewistown District of the Bureau of Land Management documented that five of the six sites selected by the Forster's Tern were larger than 100 acres, with emergent vegetation covering more than 25% of the shoreline (Feigley 1997). Four of the nesting sites were on permanent bodies of water, with the remaining two on temporarily flooded sites (Feigley 1997).

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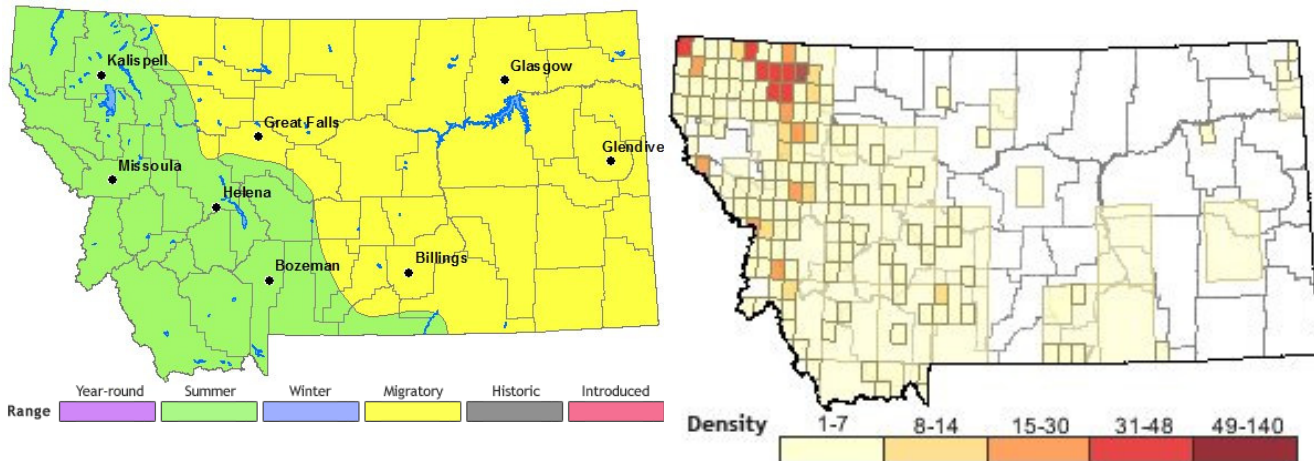


# Fox Sparrow - *Passerella iliaca*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1618

## General Description

Species monomorphic. In general, breast and flanks have dirty brown streaks, some of which form a central spot on the breast. Wings, upper tail-coverts, and rectrices rufous to dark sooty brown. Mantle coloration gray with rufous streaks, or unstreaked gray to sooty brown. Bill bicolored, with upper mandible blackish brown and basal edges dull orange or yellow. Lower mandible orangish or yellowish with grayish-brown tip (Weckstein et al. 2002).

## Habitat

Species prefers areas of thick cover, usually around forest edges and brushy woodland edges. Also found in grown-up fields, cut-over woodland, and scrubby woods.

# Franklin's Gull - *Leucophaeus pipixcan*



## Species of Concern

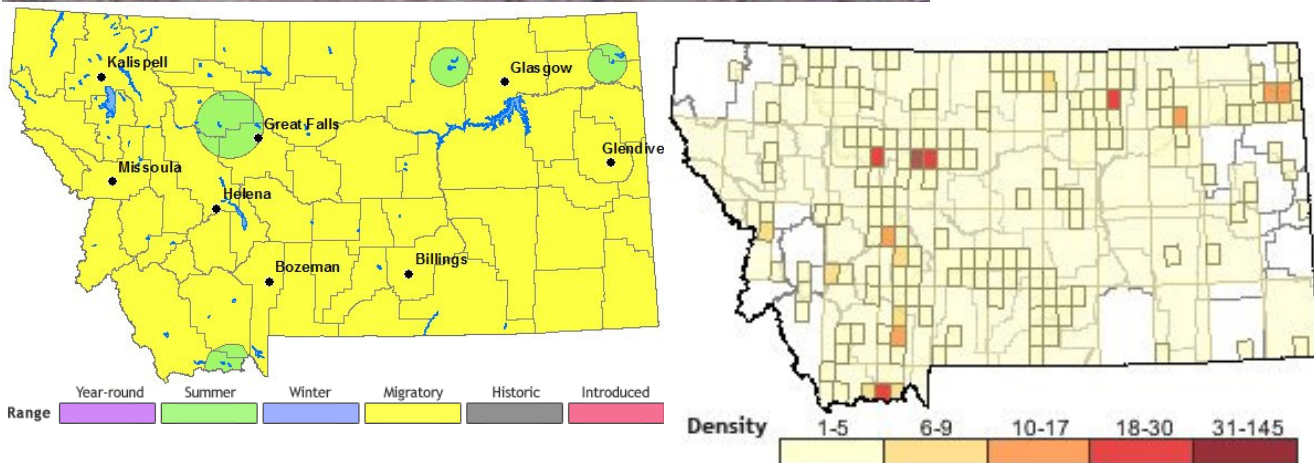
**Global Rank:** G4G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 901

## General Description

The Franklin's Gull is a small gull of wetlands in the interior of North America. In breeding plumage, this species has a black hood and a dark red bill with a black mark near the tip. The dark gray of the back extends to the upperpart of the wings. The underparts of the bird, including the wings, are white. The hindneck, the area between the black hood and the gray back, is also white. The underparts are sometimes tinged with pink, a coloration that earned the species the early name of Rosy or Prairie Dove (Burger and Gochfeld 1994). The legs are brownish-black or dusky (Burger and Gochfeld 1994). Broad white arcs directly above and below the black eye are apparent during the breeding season. The gray wings are tipped with a white band, then a black margin, and ultimately with large white primary ends.

In non-breeding plumage, the species loses the redness in the bill, and it becomes black. The black hood is reduced to an area from the eye to the back of the head, revealing a white forehead, throat, and splotchy crown. The bird averages 37 cm (14.5 inches) long with a wingspan of 91 cm (36 inches); the male tends to be slightly larger than the female (Sibley 2000). The vocalization of the Franklin's Gull is described as a nasal, laughing, hollow sound. A "kowie" or "queel" are used to define the common call (Sibley 2000).

## Habitat

Preferring large, relatively permanent prairie marsh complexes, the Franklin's Gull builds its nests over water on a supporting structure of emergent vegetation. Nesting is noted to occur in cattails (*Typha* spp.) and bulrushes (*Scirpus* spp.) (Berger and Gochfeld 1994). Typical water depth is 30 to 60 cm. Nesting over water differs from the nesting habits of Montana's other, generally ground nesting, gulls (Johnsgard 1986). Franklin's Gulls prefer to nest at sites with intermediate vegetation density, interspersed with open water of various sizes (Burger and Gochfeld 1994). Preferred nesting sites within a wetland can change from year to year because of changes in water level and associated changes in vegetation (Burger and Gochfeld 1994). One key feature of selected nesting sites is that the water levels remain high enough throughout the nesting period, or at least until the young can fledge, in order to provide protection from predators (Casey 2000). During migration, including the Bozeman area, the Franklin's Gull

can be found feeding on dry land, especially in cultivated fields prior to planting (Skaar 1969, Johnsgard 1986).

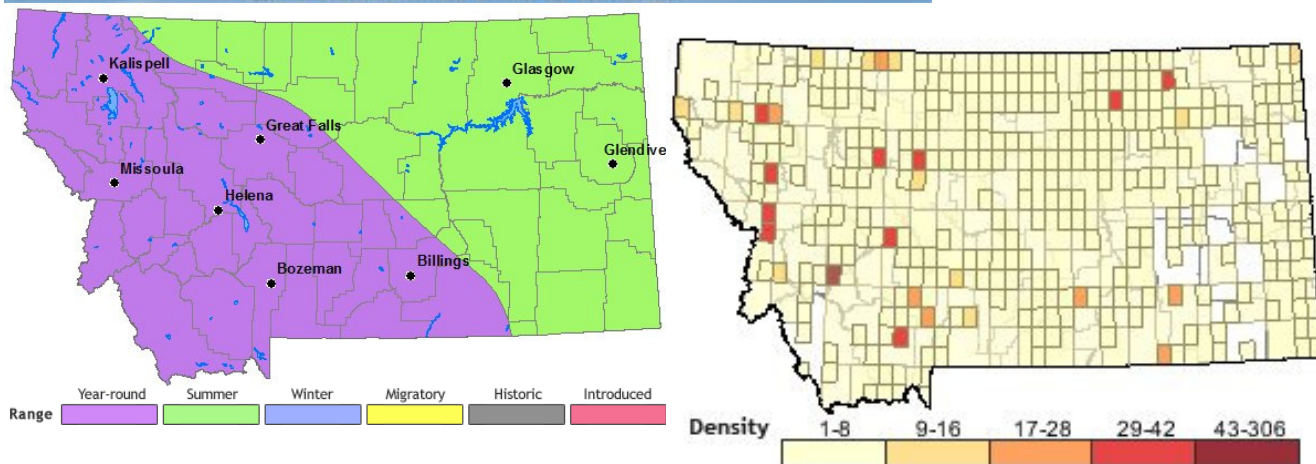
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# Gadwall - *Anas strepera*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2666

## General Description

Species sexually dimorphic. Males in alternate plumage have gray brown body with a white abdomen and black rump. Black and chestnut portions of some inner median and lesser wing-coverts, slate gray bill, and yellow legs. Females overall brownish color with distinctive bill color (orange yellow with dark longitudinal midsection and gray black lateral spots), and presence of white speculum.

## Habitat

At Bowdoin National Wildlife Refugem, Gadwall nest density was highest in saline lowlands, followed by dense nesting cover, panspots, and silty/ shallow clay. Nest success was highest in saline lowlands, then clay, panspots, silty sites and dense cover (Holm 1984).



# Garganey - *Anas querquedula*



**Accidental Species**

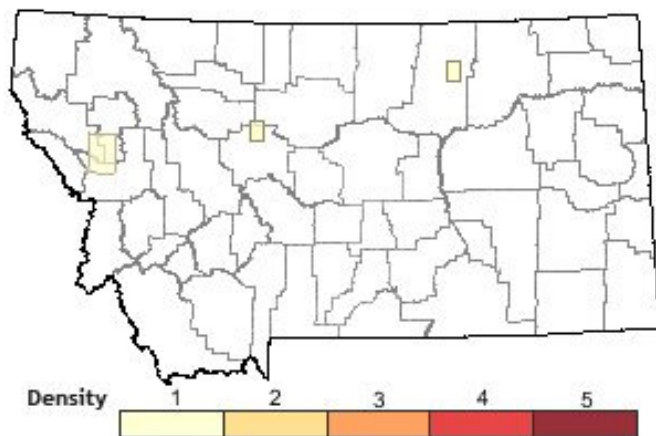
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3

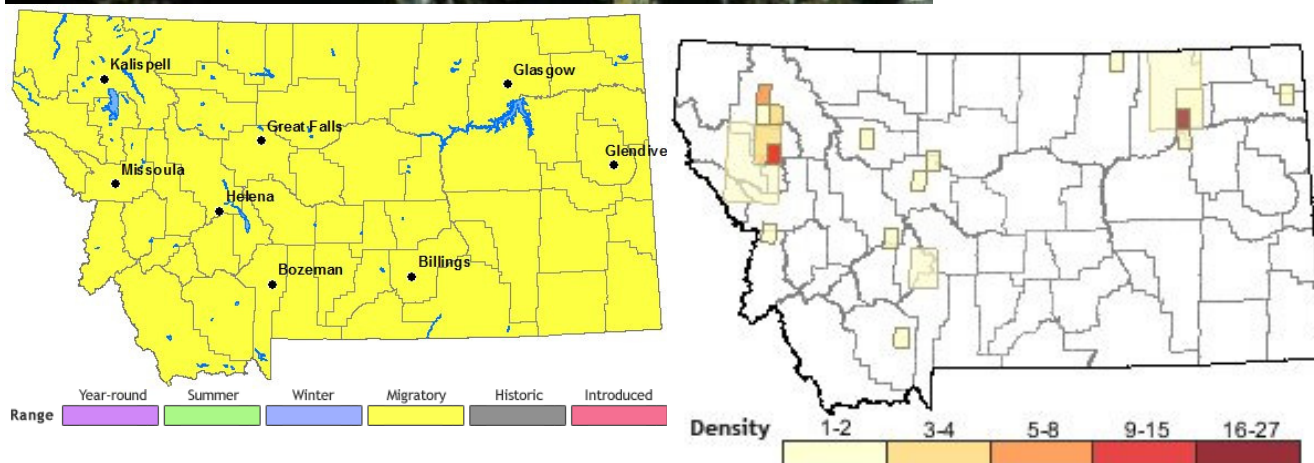
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# Glaucous Gull - *Larus hyperboreus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 78

## General Description

Sexes monomorphic in everything but size. Adult plumage consists of gray mantle and upper wings, and white-tipped wing feathers. White head with a yellow to yellow-orange beak.

## Habitat

Species found along fresh or salt water shorelines, around any type of water. Rarely found inland.

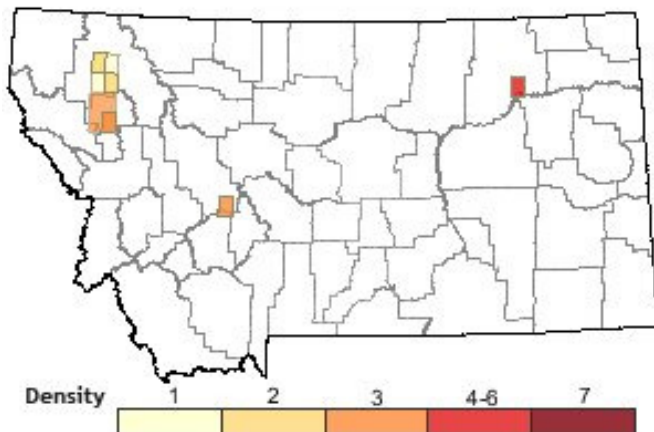
# Glaucous-winged Gull - *Larus glaucescens*



**Accidental Species**

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 20

## General Description

Bulkier gull. Head, neck, chest, upperparts and tail all white; scapulars and upper wings pale gray. Yellow-orange legs and feet and a yellow to yellow-orange beak. Characteristic red spot on bottom tip of beak.

## Habitat

Near salt water in bays, estuaries, harbors, city parks, and on beaches, mud flats, dumps, barren islands and open ocean. Rarely found in fresh water. Found in the same habitat year-round.

# Glossy Ibis - *Plegadis falcinellus*



**Accidental Species**

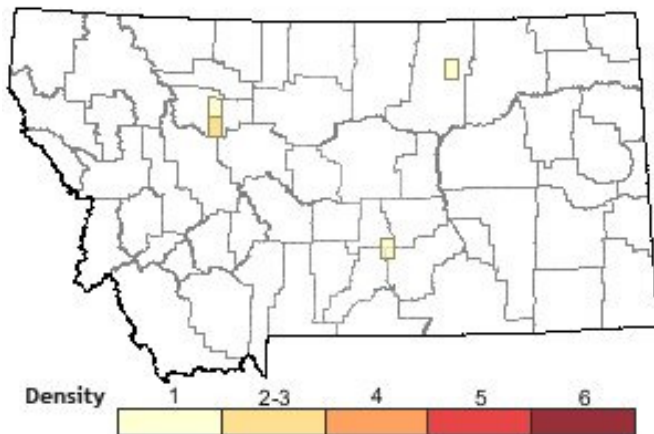
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 6

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# Golden Eagle - *Aquila chrysaetos*



## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5

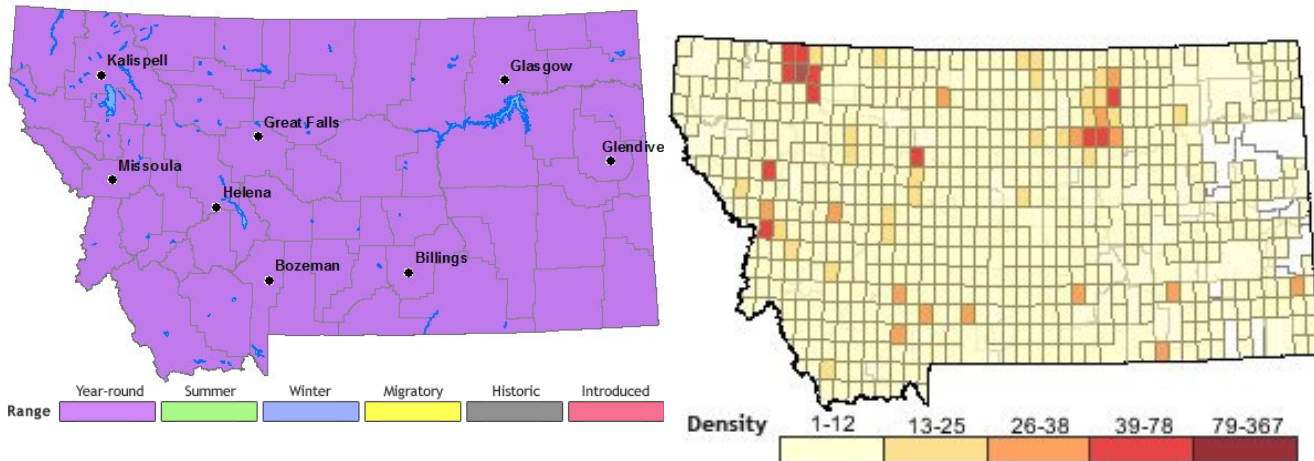
**State Rank:** S3

## Agency Status

**USFWS:** BGEPA; MBTA; BCC

**USFS:**

**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 5968

## General Description

Adults are brown overall, gold on head and neck feathers, with light brown bands in the tail. Immature birds have white patches on the wings and white at the base of the tail feathers. Golden Eagles often soar with their wings held nearly flat, but slightly upturned. The legs are heavily feathered down to the tops of the toes. Golden Eagles range in length from 33 to 38 inches, and have a wingspan of 6-1/2 to 7-1/2 feet. A very large raptor with mostly brown plumage, a golden wash on the back of the head and neck, and a mostly horn-colored bill; tail is faintly banded; immatures have white at the base of the primaries and white tail with a dark terminal band; total length 76 to 102 cm, wingspan 203 to 224 cm.

## Habitat

Golden Eagles nest on cliffs and in large trees (occasionally on power poles), and hunt over prairie and open woodlands; some nest sites in the Fallon area include scoracious badland pillars (Cameron 1905), another near Knowlton was in a ponderosa pine (Cameron 1907). In the Livingston area 62% of 92 nests were on cliffs, 29% in Douglas-fir, and 2-3% each in ponderosa pine, cottonwood, snags, and on the ground (McGahan 1968). About 70% of cliff nests were oriented to the south or east, most nests were found between 4000-6000 ft elevation, and sites were associated with sagebrush/grassland hunting areas (McGahan 1968). In the Bozeman area, Golden Eagles move from mountains to valleys in the winter (Skaar 1969).

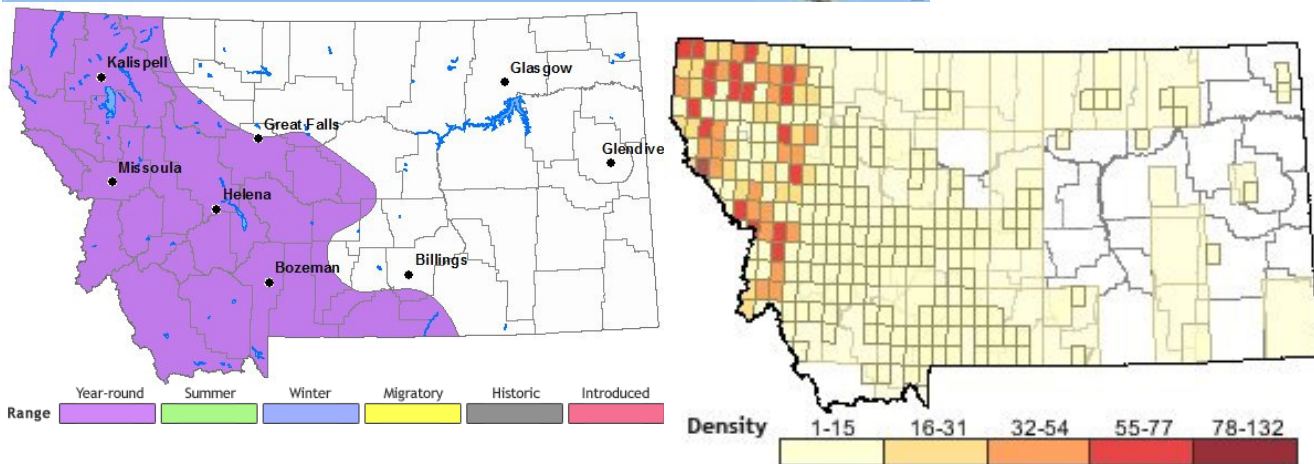


# Golden-crowned Kinglet - *Regulus satrapa*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 6287

## General Description

Tiny, greenish songbird. Both sexes olive above, paler below with 2 white wing-bars; yellow and orange crown-patch (in female, yellow only), bordered by black. Orange portion of male crown-patch concealed or may be absent in juveniles.

## Habitat

Nests in forests with closed or open canopies, edges of clearings, or near water.

# Golden-crowned Sparrow - *Zonotrichia atricapilla*



**Accidental Species**

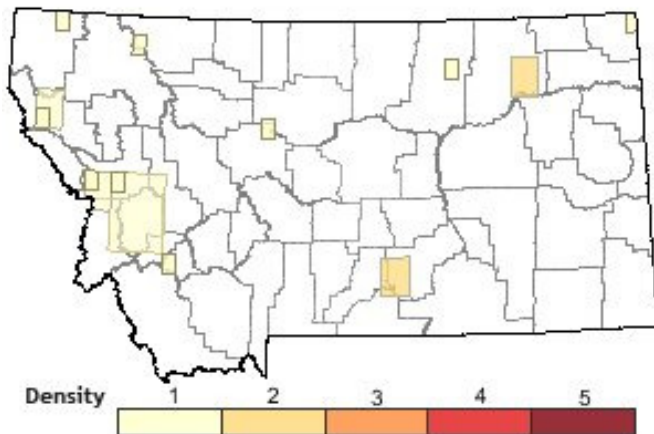
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 16

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# Golden-winged Warbler - *Vermivora chrysoptera*



**Accidental Species**

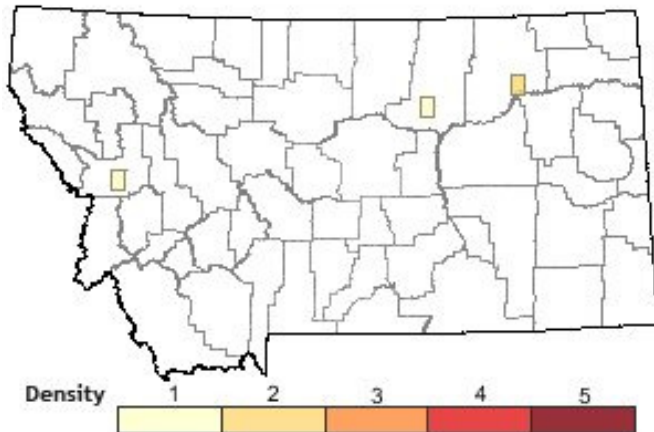
**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 5

## General Description

Typical warbler size, shape, and bright coloration. Male has a slate-gray back and nape and a white chest and abdomen. The crown and forehead are bright yellow and contrast with a black cheek and throat patch. Thin white lines separate the crown from the cheek patch, and the cheek patch from the throat patch. The slate-gray wings have a yellow patch. In females, the cheek and throat patch are gray and the back and chest may have a hint of yellow or olive.

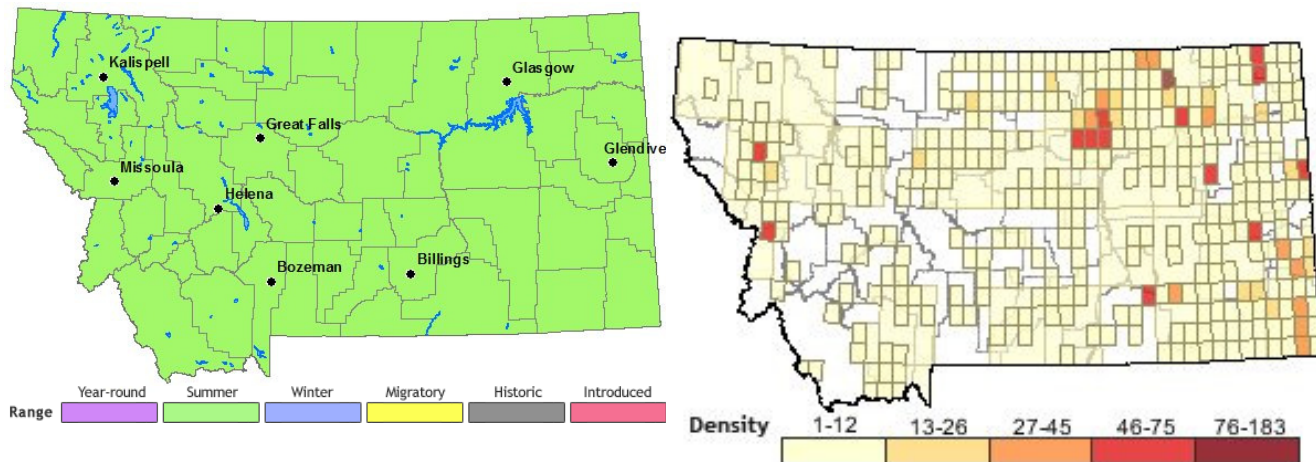
Hybridization with the Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) produces two color patterns once thought to be separate species: the Brewster's and Lawrence's Warblers. The Brewster's Warbler has a white throat and, like the Golden-winged Warbler, usually has a white breast and gray back, but has a thin eye line and separate wing bars typical of the Blue-winged Warbler. The Lawrence's Warbler has the black eye and black throat patch of a Golden-winged Warbler but has the yellow undersides and yellow-olive back of a Blue-winged Warbler. Intermediate forms occur and may result from matings between two hybrids and between hybrids and parental phenotypes. Intermediates show all degrees of variation in color hue and pattern between the parental types. Short (1963) and Gill (1980) derived a hybrid index to help distinguish among the intermediate and parental phenotypes.

# Grasshopper Sparrow - *Ammodramus savannarum*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3928

## General Description

A chunky sparrow with a short narrow tail, flat head, buffy breast and sides (adults usually without obvious streaking), dark crown with a pale central stripe, narrow white eye ring, and (in most adults) a yellow-orange spot in front of the eye; juveniles have pale buff breast and sides, streaked with brown; average length 13 cm.

## Habitat

Prefers open prairies with intermittent brush, although not particular to heavy brush cover.

## Gray Catbird - *Dumetella carolinensis*



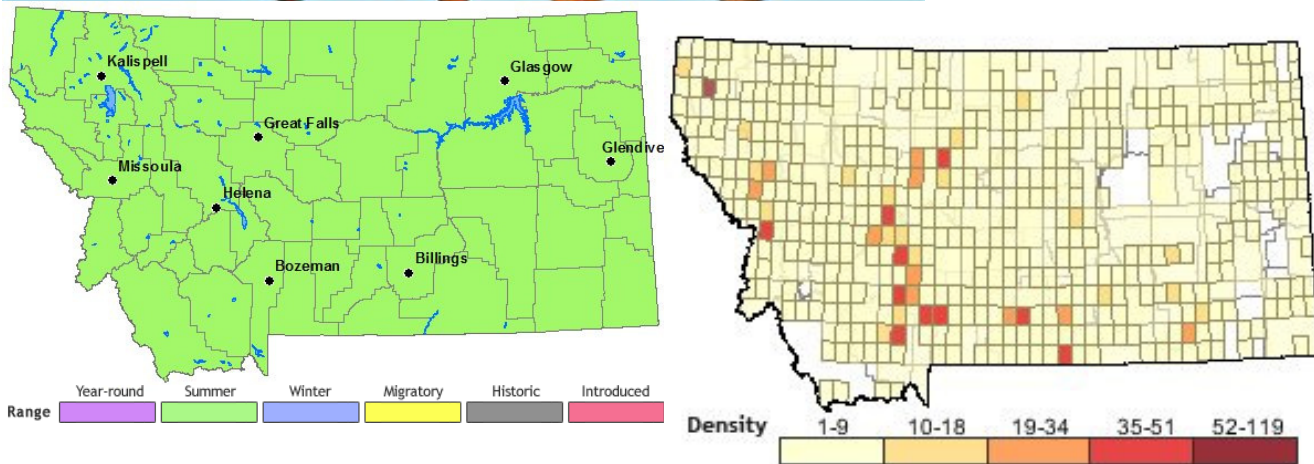
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3225

### General Description

Named for its mewing call. The Gray Catbird is a 22-cm-long, dark gray bird with a sturdy, relatively straight bill, black cap, long black tail, and chestnut undertail coverts.

### Habitat

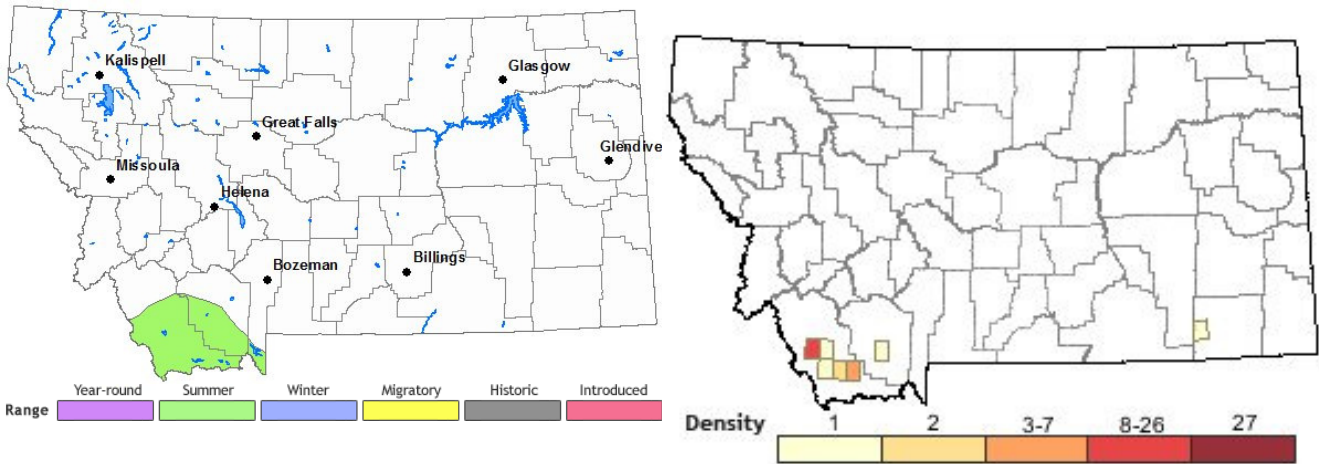
Throughout range found in dense shrubs or vine tangles; most abundant in shrub-sapling-stage successional habitats. Also found in forest edges and clearings, roadsides, fencerows, abandoned farmland and home sites, pine plantations, streamsides, and some residential areas. Uncommon in areas dominated by conifers (Cimprich and Moore 1995).

# Gray Flycatcher - *Empidonax wrightii*



Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: S4B

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



Number of Observations: 40

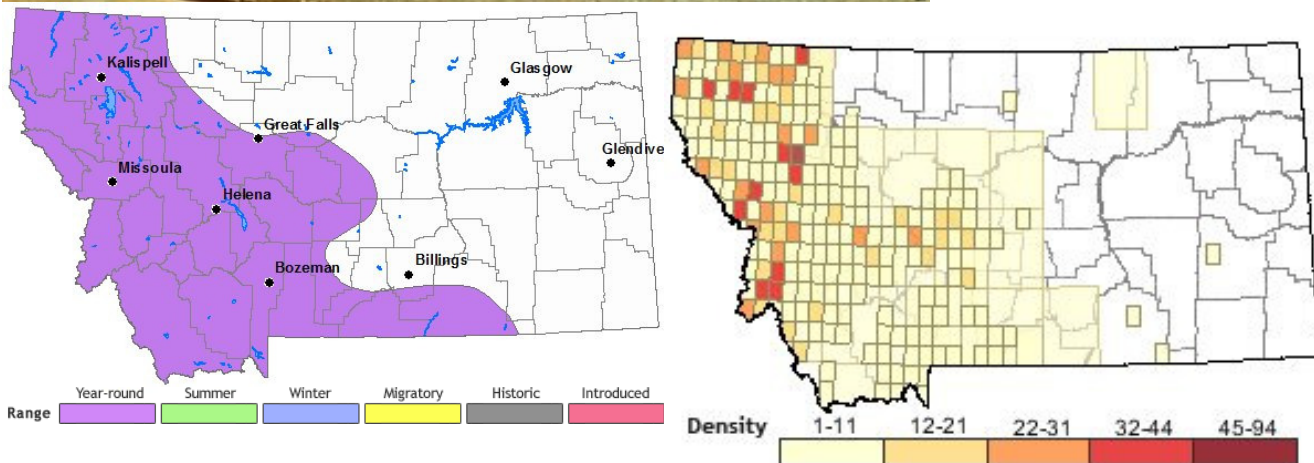


## Gray Jay - *Perisoreus canadensis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3579

### General Description

A long-tailed, small-billed jay without a crest; slightly smaller than Blue Jay; 27.4 to 31 cm; 62 to 82 g. Nares covered by feathers and bill appears short. Loose and fluffy dull-colored plumage. Bill, legs, and feet black. Adults have white or lighter auricular area, dark gray or brownish gray upper parts, whitish throat often extending into a collar around the neck, and buffy gray to whitish under parts. Head white except for dull black crown patch. Juveniles are sooty black but may have whitish subocular stripe. Juvenile bill initially white, then turning black (Strickland and Ouellet 1993).

### Habitat

A widespread resident of North America's boreal and sub-alpine coniferous forests (Strickland and Ouellet 1993).

# Gray Partridge - *Perdix perdix*



**Exotic Species (not native to Montana)**

**Global Rank: G5**

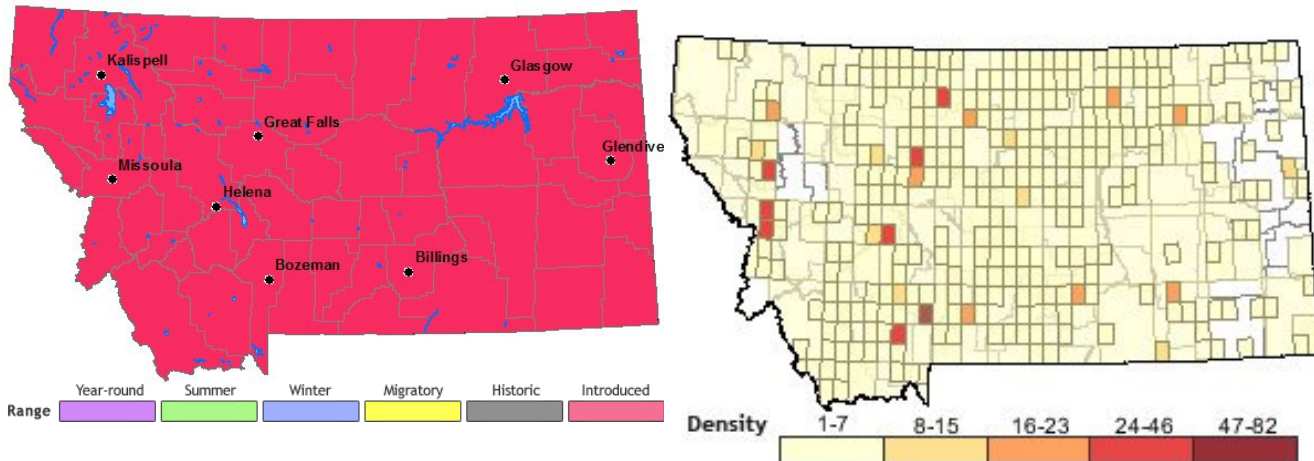
**State Rank: SNA**

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1686

## General Description

Gray Partridge (Hungarian Partridge) sexes are similar in color. The adults have cinnamon-colored heads, gray sides with vertical chestnut bars, and grayish to brownish backs. The two central pairs of tail feathers are heavily barred, while the outer tail feathers are rusty-brown. Both sexes may have a chestnut-brown horseshoe design on the breast, although it is more common in males. Gray Partridge usually flush in coveys of 10 to 15 birds, and the rufous tail feathers are conspicuous on birds in flight. Adult males and females range from 12 to 13 inches in length and average about 14 ounces in weight.

## Habitat

Habitat consists of a mixture of cultivated and noncultivated land; grasslands interspersed with wheat fields, weed patches, and brushy cover. Optimum conditions are a cool, moderately dry climate and a mixture of cultivated and noncultivated land. Grain fields and winter wheat stubble are also used. Field edges provide escape and winter cover (Mussehl 1971).

# Gray-cheeked Thrush - *Catharus minimus*



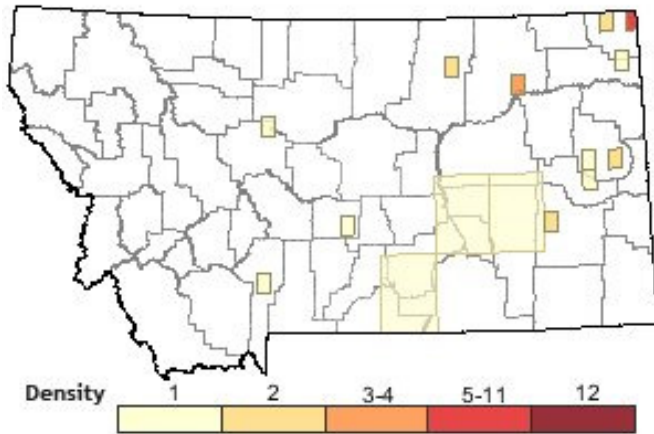
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 32

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# Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch - *Leucosticte tephrocotis*

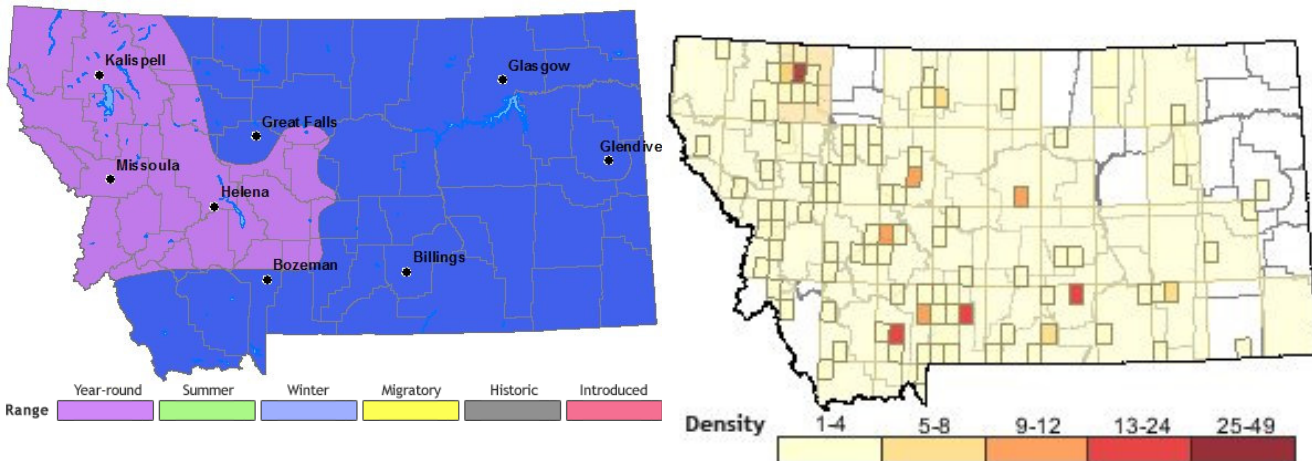


## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S2B,S5N

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 490

## General Description

The Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch is a medium-sized, dark brown finch of about 14 to 16 cm in length and 22 to 26 grams in weight; the Pribilof and Aleutian island forms are larger (17 to 21 cm in length and 42 to 60 grams in weight). Adults are rather stout with long wings and a notched tail. Adult male plumage includes pink on the wings, belly, and rump, a black forecrown and gray band around the hindcrown (in some races gray is also present on the cheeks, and the head appears mostly gray). The breast and flanks are brown, nasal tufts are white, and the bill is yellow in winter and black in the breeding season. The sexes are similar in size and appearance, although in females the black in the crown and the pink in the plumage are less distinct. Juveniles are similar in appearance to adult females but with overall duller coloration and lacking the gray crown, black forehead, and pink on the underparts (MacDougall-Shackleton et al. 2000).

## Habitat

Breeding, nesting, and winter roosting habitat in Montana is similar to other regions in the species' range (Johnson 1965, Hendricks 1981). Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches nest in crevices in cliffs and talus among glaciers and snowfields above timberline (also in abandoned buildings above treeline) and forage in barren, rocky or grassy areas adjacent to the nesting sites; in migration and winter they also occur in open situations, fields, cultivated lands, brushy areas, and around human habitation. They may roost in mine shafts or similar protected sites. During some winters individuals move out onto the shortgrass and midgrass prairies to feed (Hendricks and Swenson 1983, Swenson et al. 1988).



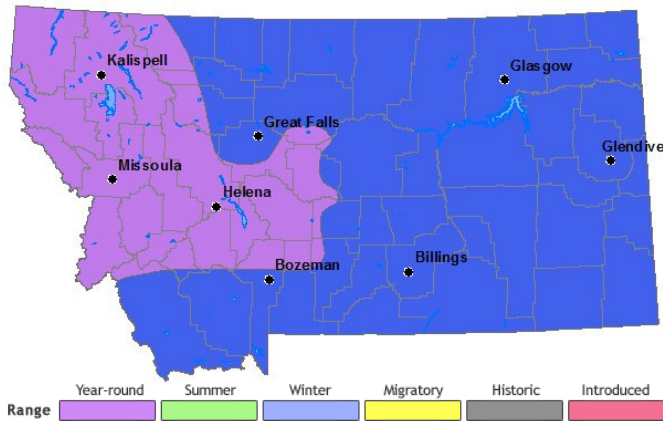
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# Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (Cassin's) - *Leucosticte tephrocotis tephrocotis*



Global Rank: G5TNR  
State Rank: SNR

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



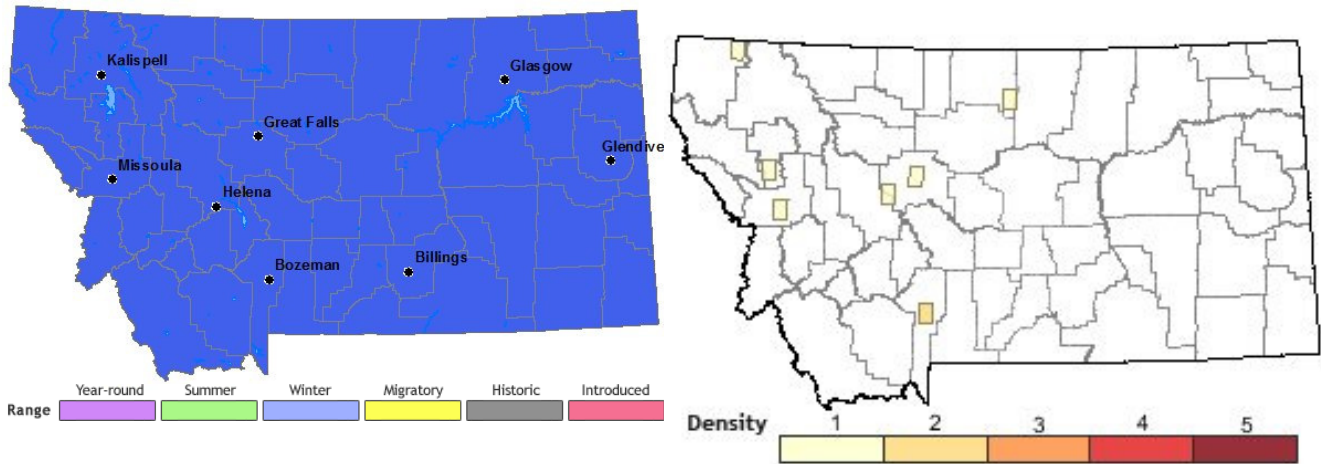
Number of Observations: 0

# Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (Hepburn's) - *Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis*



Global Rank: G5TNR  
State Rank: SNR

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



Number of Observations: 8

# Great Black-backed Gull - *Larus marinus*



**Accidental Species**

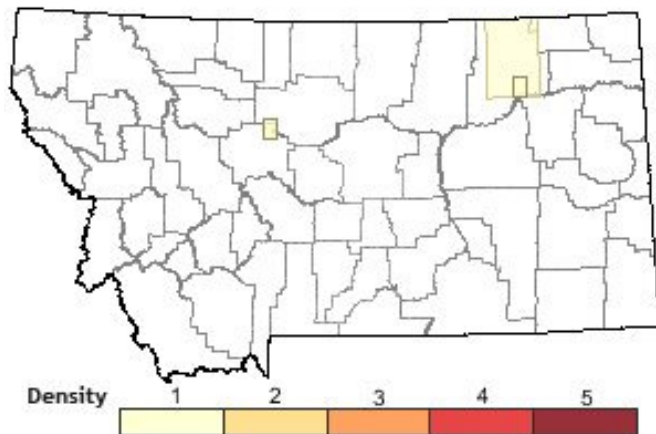
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3

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# Great Blue Heron - *Ardea herodias*



## Species of Concern

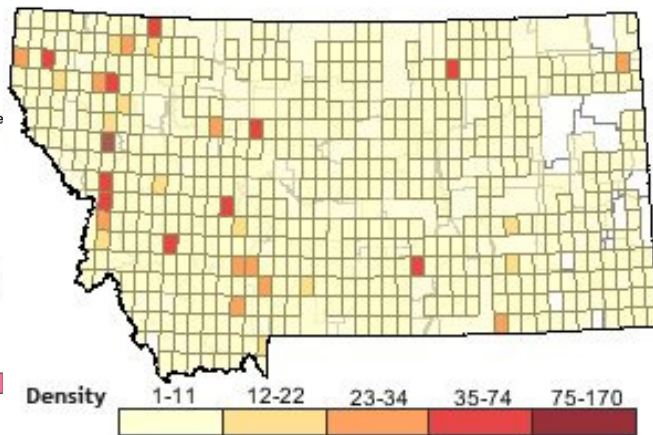
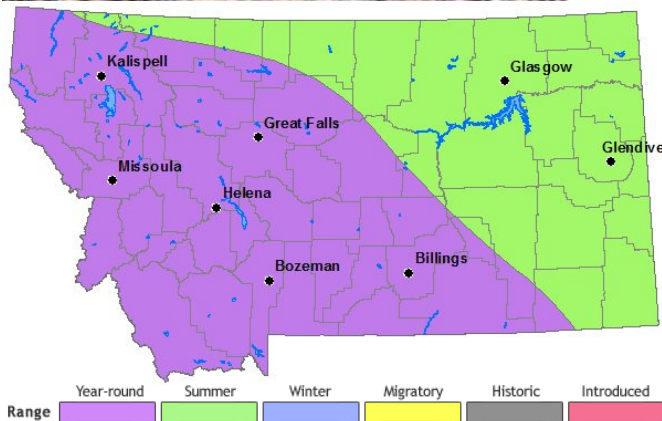
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 4147

## General Description

Largest heron in North America, 60 cm tall, 97 to 135 cm long, 2.1 to 2.5 kg mass. Wings long and rounded, bill long and tapered, tail short. Upper parts are gray, fore-neck is streaked with white, black, and rust-brown. Bill yellowish. Legs brownish or greenish. In flight, folds neck in an "S" shape and extends legs along the body axis; wing beats are deep slow wing. Adults have long occipital plumes (Butler 1992).

## Habitat

Great Blue Herons are equally at home in urban wetlands and wilderness settings. Most Montana nesting colonies are in cottonwoods along major rivers and lakes; a smaller number occur in riparian ponderosa pines and on islands in prairie wetlands. Nesting trees are the largest available. Active colonies are farther from rivers than inactive colonies. The number of nests in the colony corresponds to the distance from roads (Parker 1980). Great Blue Herons build bulky stick nests high in the trees when nesting near the shores of rivers and lakes and on the ground or in low shrubs when nesting on treeless islands.

# Great Crested Flycatcher - *Myiarchus crinitus*



**Accidental Species**

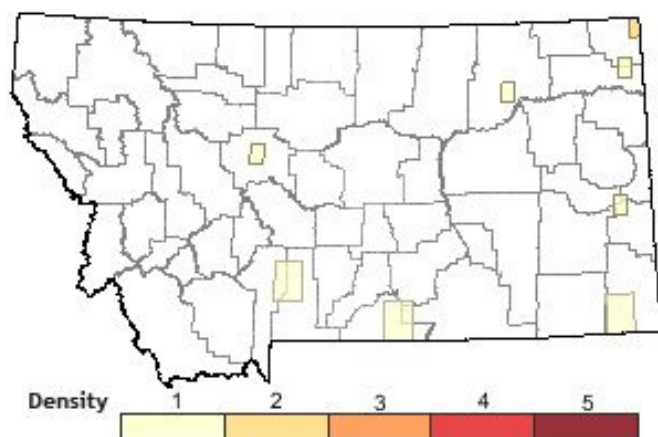
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 9

## General Description

Male has olive-brown body and head crest, pale gray breast and throat, yellow abdomen, long rufous tail, and cinnamon wings with white wing bars. Measurements: length, 32.4 to 35.6 cm; mass, 28 to 42.5 g. Female is similar but may be duller. Immature/fledgling patterns are similar to the adult, colors may be duller.

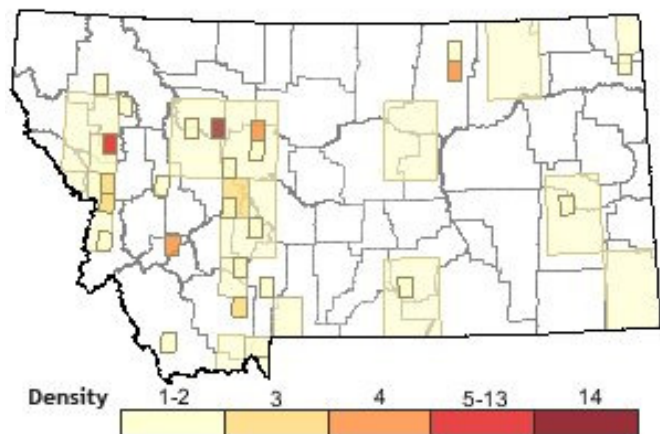
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# Great Egret - *Ardea alba*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 87

## General Description

A large wading bird with all-white plumage; long black legs and feet; a long neck; and a long, straight, pointed, yellow bill; in breeding plumage, long white plumes extend from back beyond end of tail; average length 99 cm, wingspan 130 cm.

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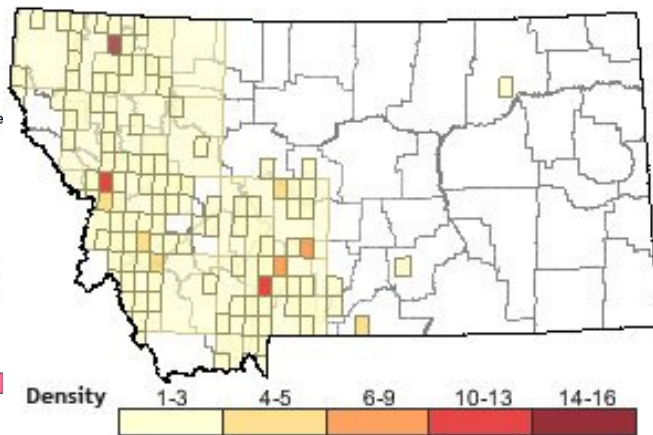
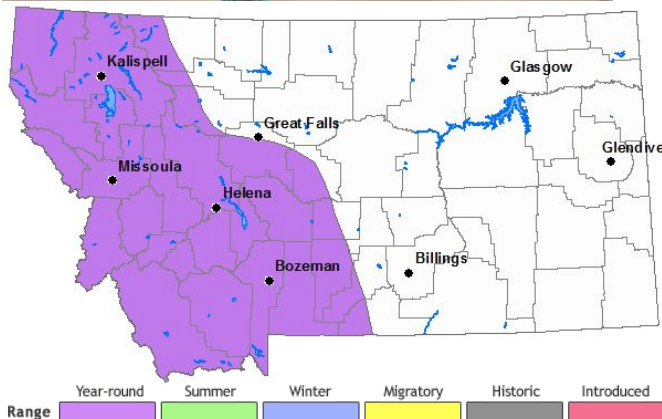
# Great Gray Owl - *Strix nebulosa*



## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 306

## General Description

Great Gray Owls are the largest owl species in North America. They have a wingspan over 4 feet with a body length of up to 27 inches. They can weigh over 2 pounds. Females are usually larger than males, but they are otherwise identical in appearance. Great Gray Owls have a large, rounded, half-domed head with a flat face and no ear tufts (Bull and Duncan 1993, Sibley 2000). Their eyes are yellow, but look rather small due to the ringed facial disks. The bill is mostly yellow with a black patch below separating white lores that give Great Gray Owls their classic bow-tied appearance. The plumage is mostly gray with patches of whites and browns. The tail is fairly long and is also brown and gray (Bull and Duncan 1993).

The vocalization of Great Gray Owls is a series of deep resonating "whoos" that falls in pitch and accelerates (Cramp 1985).

## Habitat

Little specific habitat information for Montana is currently available, as systematic surveys for Great Gray Owls have not been done. Great Gray Owls are known to use lodgepole pine/Douglas-fir in Montana. Habitat information from other Great Gray Owl sources state that their habitat is dense coniferous and hardwood forest, especially pine,



spruce, paper birch, poplar, and second-growth, especially near water. They forage in wet meadows, boreal forests and spruce-tamarack bogs in the far north, and coniferous forest and meadows in mountainous areas.

Great Gray Owls nest in the tops of large broken-off tree trunks (especially in the south), in old nests of other large birds (e.g., hawk nest) (especially in the north), or in debris platforms from dwarf mistletoe, frequently near bogs or clearings. Nests are frequently reused (Franklin 1988) and the same pair often nests in the same area in successive years.

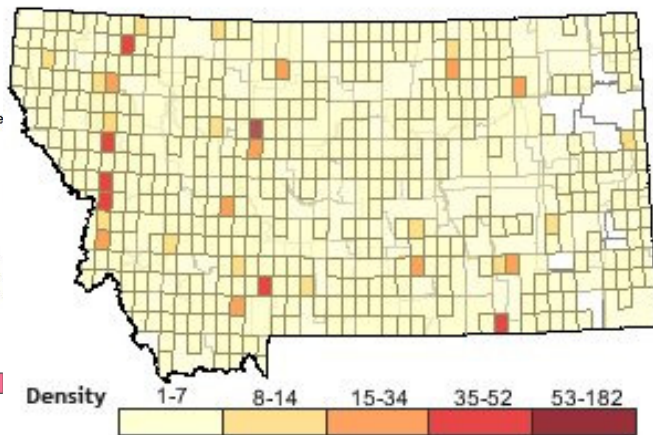
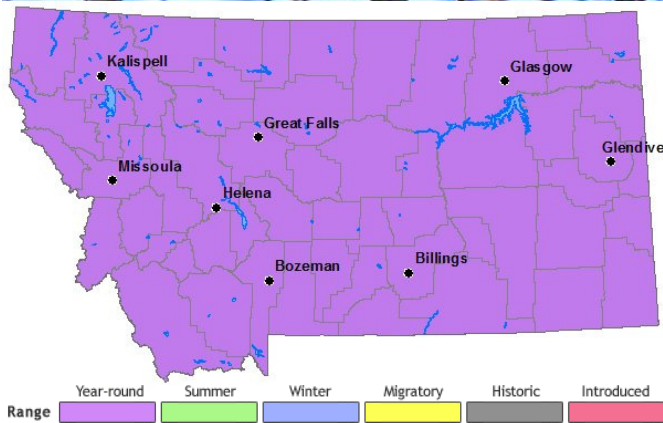
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# Great Horned Owl - *Bubo virginianus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2428

## General Description

A large owl, hard to mistake. Tufts appear to sit wide on the head. Eyes yellow, bill black, throat white. Facial disk variable in color, but usually dark rust to brown. Ventrally, heavy dark brown horizontal barring from the chest to the lower abdomen. Dorsally, the same colors exist as ventrally; however, there is more mottling. Because of its wide distribution and adaptability to any habitat, plumage color varies greatly, depending on location. **SIZE:** 20 to 25 inches. **WEIGHT:** 46 to 61 ounces (three to four pounds). **VOICE:** A booming, "Whoo, whoo, whoo whooo, whooo-who" loud and unmistakable.

## Habitat

Occurs from river bottoms to timberline throughout the state.

# Great-tailed Grackle - *Quiscalus mexicanus*



**Accidental Species**

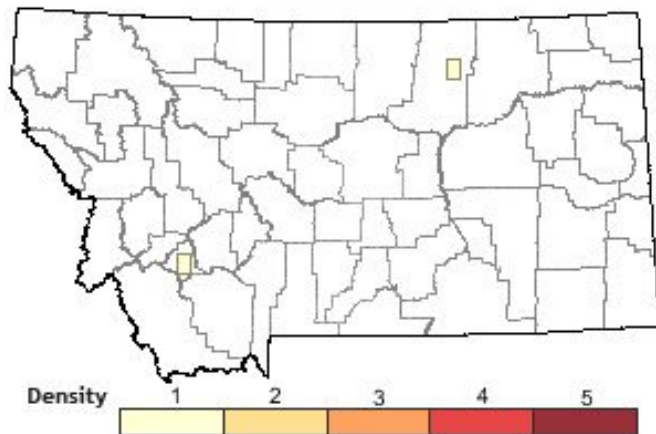
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2

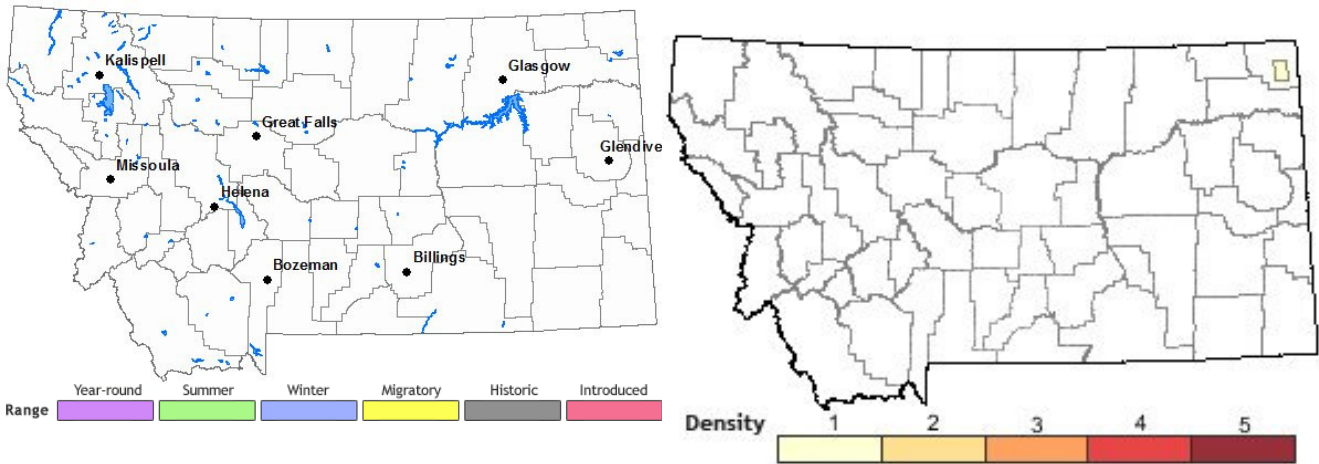
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# Greater Prairie-Chicken - *Tympanuchus cupido*



Global Rank: G4  
State Rank: SX

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



Number of Observations: 1

## General Description

Chunky, henlike bird, heavily barred above and below with dark brown, cinnamon, and pale buff; short rounded tail is black in males, barred in females; male has fleshy yellow-orange eye combs; both sexes have elongate dark neck feathers, longer and erected during courtship in males; males have inflatable golden sacs on each side of the neck.



# Greater Sage-Grouse - *Centrocercus urophasianus*

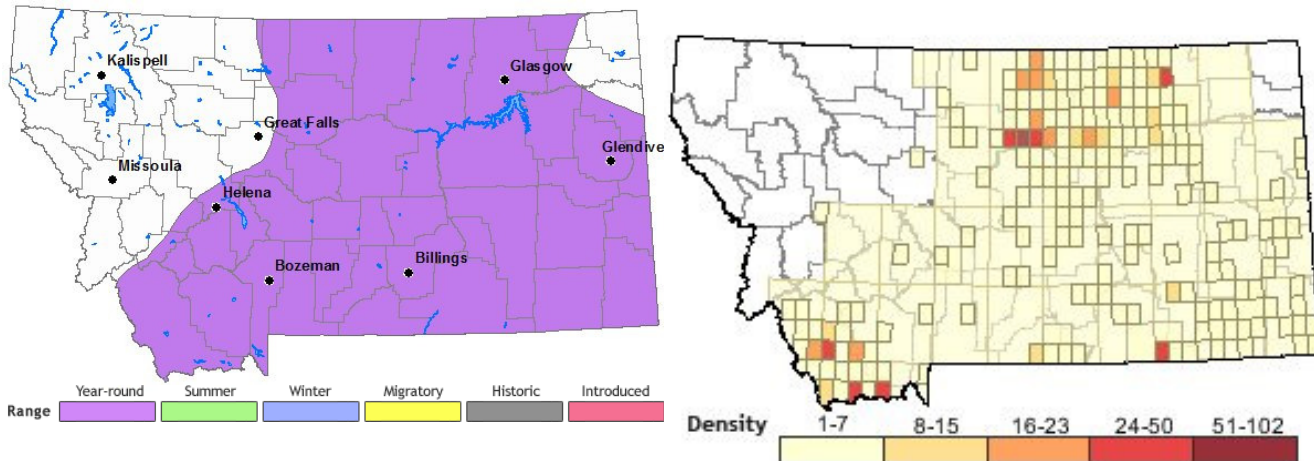


## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G3G4  
**State Rank:** S2

## Agency Status

**USFWS:** C  
**USFS:** SENSITIVE  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 14312

## General Description

Greater Sage-Grouse is the largest of Montana's grouse. Both sexes have relatively long, pointed tails, feathered legs, and mottled gray-brown, buff, and black plumage. Males have a blackish-brown throat patch and an inconspicuous yellow eye comb. Both sexes have blackish bellies which contrast sharply with white under-wing coverts when the birds are in flight. Females appear to dip from side to side while flying. Adult males range from 26 to 30 inches in length and average 4 to 7 pounds in weight; adult females range from 19 to 23 inches in length and 2.5 to 3.5 pounds in weight.

## Habitat

Sagebrush is the preferred habitat. They use 6 to 18 inch high sagebrush covered benches in June to July (average 213 acres); move to alfalfa fields (144 acres) or greasewood bottoms (91 acres) when forbs on the benches dry out; and move back to sagebrush (average 128 acres) in late August to early September (Peterson 1969).

# Greater Scaup - *Aythya marila*



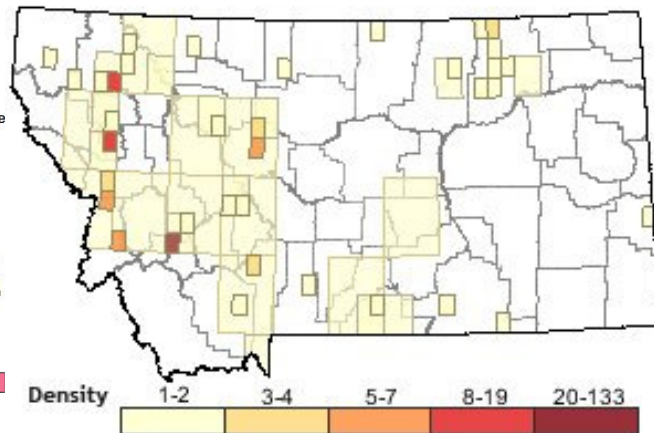
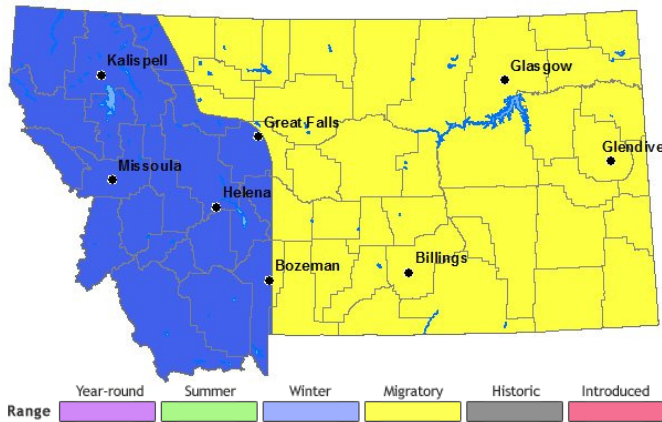
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SU

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 290

## General Description

Species sexually dimorphic. Males black on both ends with a white belly and a gray top side. Females have brown body with greenish tint, brown head, and a pale ring around face before beak.

## Habitat

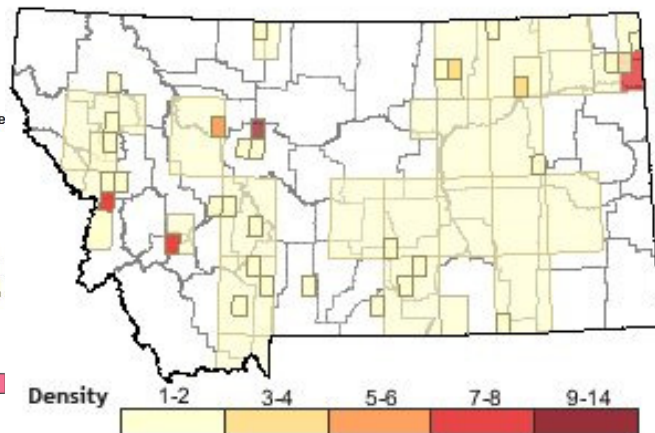
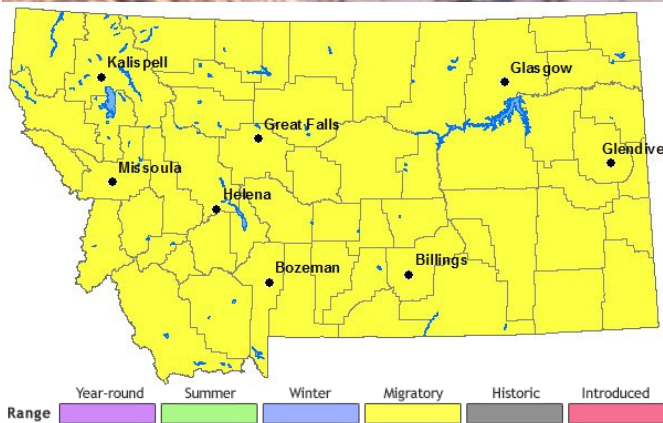
Prefers areas with non-flowing water such as lakes, ponds, and resevoirs.

# Greater White-fronted Goose - *Anser albifrons*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 125

## General Description

Easily recognized as only gray-brown goose with pinkish bill and orange feet; paler chest and black patches on lower breast and belly.

## Habitat

Nests generally located in moderate to dense cover of grasses and sedges or dwarf shrubs.

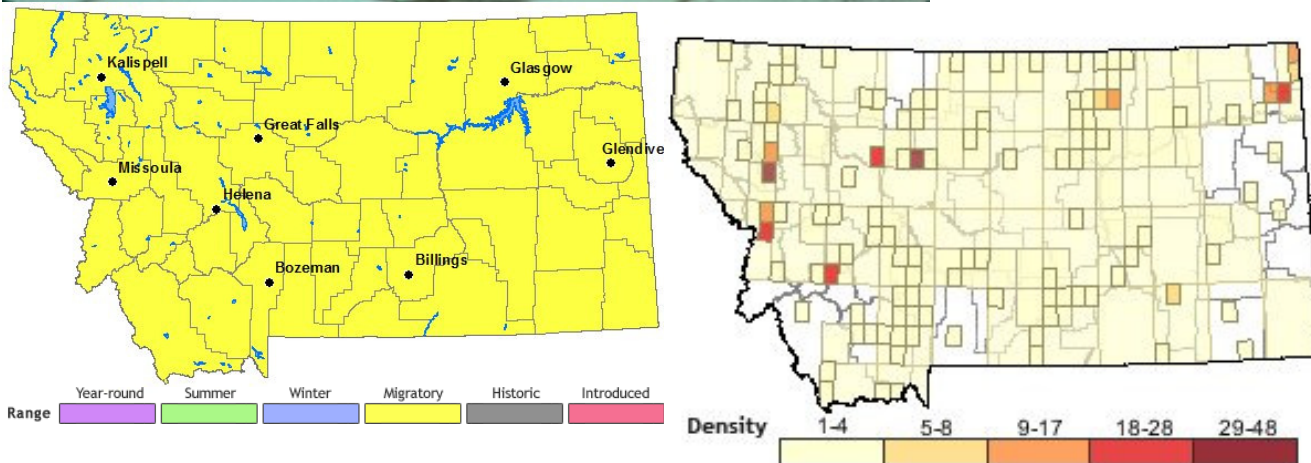


# Greater Yellowlegs - *Tringa melanoleuca*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 664

## General Description

Medium-sized to large, long-legged shorebird (290 to 330 mm long, 111 to 235 g) with pale-spotted dark brown upperparts and pale underparts. In alternate plumage, develops heavy dark streaks on head and neck barring on flanks and upper belly. Basic and juvenile plumages are less heavily marked, especially below. Sexes similar in plumage and size. Slender and long necked with long bright yellow legs and long dark bill give it an elegant, upright appearance (Elphick and Tibbitts 1998).

## Habitat

In migration these birds occupy the edges of marshes and slow-moving rivers. In Bozeman area they also occur along mudflats (Skaar 1969). Restricts itself as a breeder to swampy muskeg habitats of central Canada and southern Alaska. During the nonbreeding season, it inhabits fresh and saline wetlands across the Americas (Elphick and Tibbitts 1998).



# Green Heron - *Butorides virescens*



**Accidental Species**

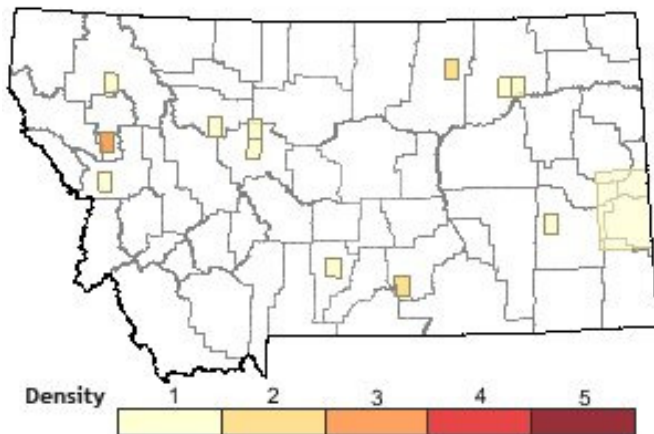
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 18

## General Description

A small stocky wading bird with relatively short legs (dull yellow; bright orange in breeding males), long straight bill, and short tail; adult has a mostly deep chestnut neck, greenish-black crown, green/blue-gray upperparts, and white mid-ventral throat region; immature is browner above, with the white throat and underparts heavily streaked with brown; total length is about 46 cm, wingspan 66 cm (NGS 1983).

# Green-tailed Towhee - *Pipilo chlorurus*

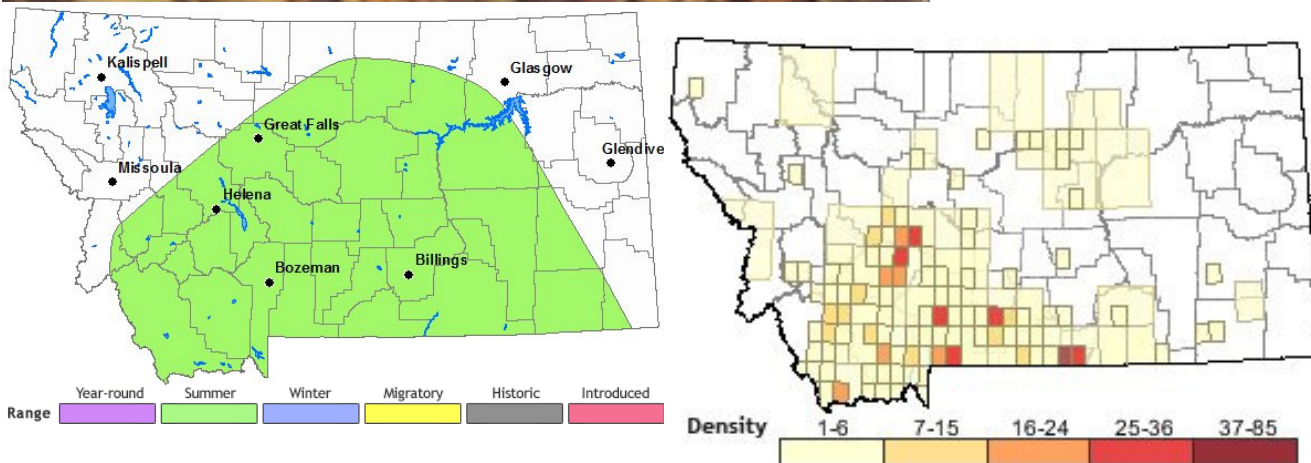


## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1025

## General Description

A large sparrow; about 18 cm long, mass about 29 g. Sexes monochromatic, but some females show slightly duller plumage than males, especially on crown. Adult is unmistakable. It has olive green upperparts, gray breast, long greenish tail, and conspicuous reddish brown cap. White supraloral spots, submoustachial stripe, chin, throat, and belly contrast strongly with gray on head and breast. Juvenile lacks contrasts, mainly brownish gray above and white below. They are secretive in nature but give away their presence with characteristic ascending, catlike "Mew" calls (Dobbs et al. 1998).

## Habitat

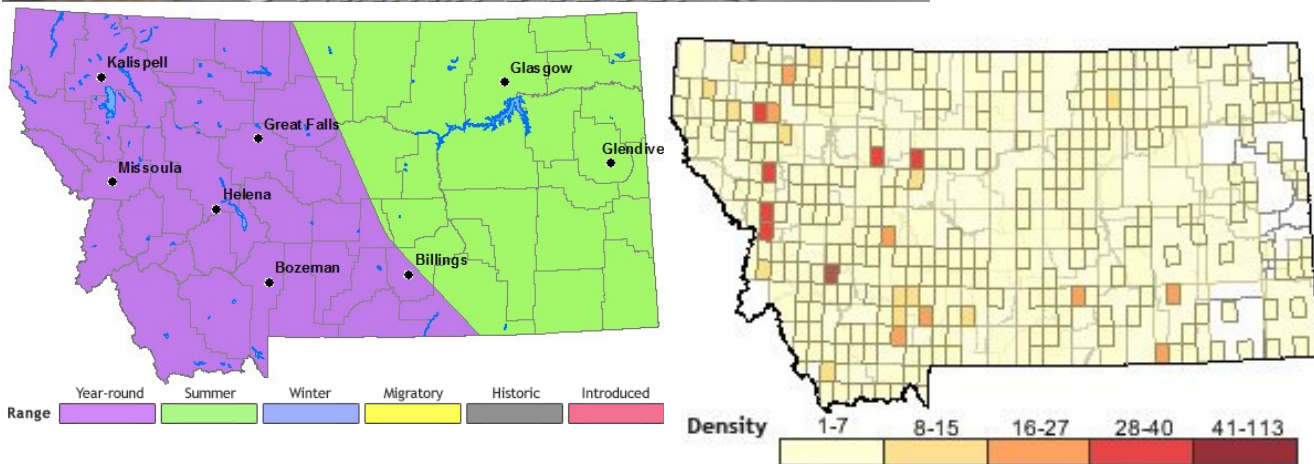
Individuals spend much of their time on or near the ground in thick, shrubby habitats. Breeders prefer species-rich shrub communities within shrub-steppe habitats, and disturbed and open areas of montane forest, often created by forest fires (Dobbs et al. 1998).

# Green-winged Teal - *Anas crecca*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1783

## General Description

The Green-winged Teal is America's smallest dabbling duck. Bill is narrower and shorter than others. Sexually dimorphic. Male in alternate plumage: head cinnamon with an iridescent green crescent running through the eye to a small crest at the back. Breast pinkish with small black spots. North American subspecies has a short, vertical, white stripe along the side of the body just below the front of the folded wing. Sides appear gray. Back grayish. A yellowish triangular patch along each side of black undertail-coverts. Speculum green toward inner wing, blackish toward outer wing; bordered by a tan stripe on leading edge and a white stripe on trailing edge. Male in eclipse plumage similar to female. Female mottled brown with a dark bill, dark forewing, and white chin and belly (Johnson 1995).

## Habitat

Highest densities in wooded ponds of deciduous parklands, with additional breeding in boreal forests, arctic deltas, and mixed prairie regions. Often inhabits grasslands or sedge meadows with brush thickets or woodlands next to a marsh or pond. Often inhabits beaver ponds in wooded areas (Johnson 1995).

# Green-winged Teal (Eurasian) - *Anas crecca crecca*



**Exotic Species (not native to Montana)**

**Global Rank:** GNRTNR

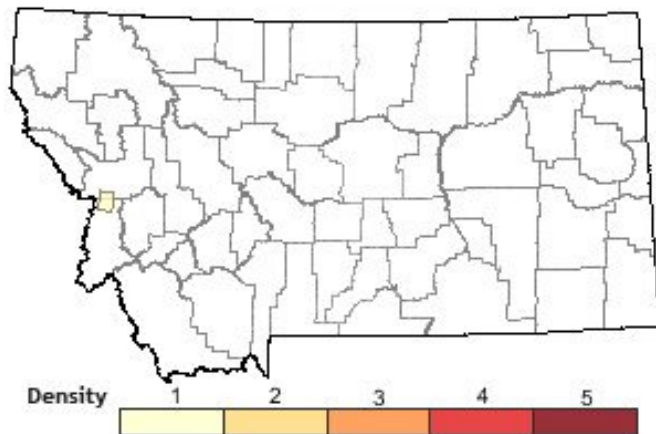
**State Rank:** SNRTNR

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations: 1**

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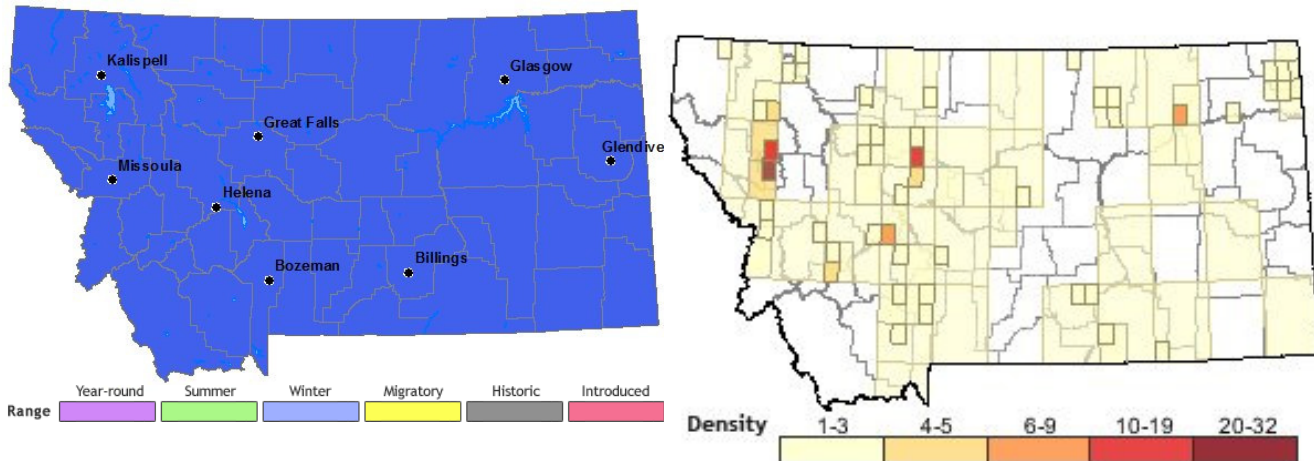


# Gyr Falcon - *Falco rusticolus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 250

## General Description

Several color phases, ranging from white to dark slate-gray, exist. White birds exhibit varying degrees of dark barring on the upper parts of the body, but the undersides may be nearly pure white. Darker birds have considerable dark barring and streaking on a light gray breast and belly. Gray birds are more commonly observed in Montana than white birds. Immature birds are similar to adults, but have blue-gray legs instead of the yellow legs of the adults. Females measure about 22 inches in length and have a wingspan of about 48 inches. Male measurements range from two to four inches smaller.

## Habitat

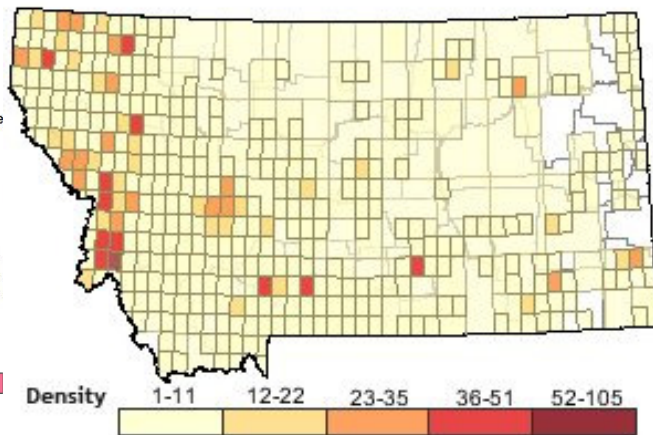
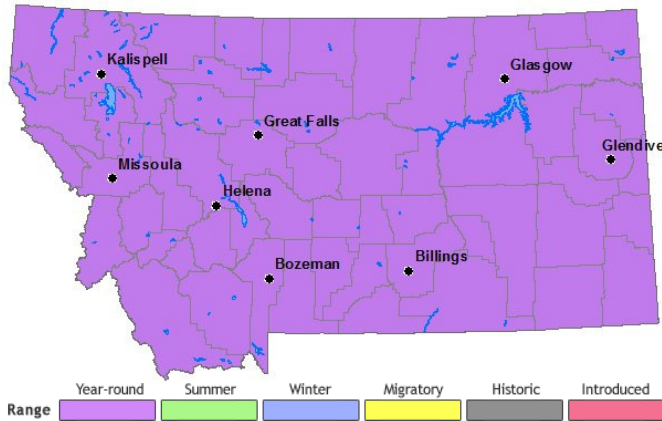
Gyrfalcons breed in the remote Arctic and sub-Arctic zones around the globe. During the winter months, they often are seen as migrants or over-wintering birds in eastern Montana and in the western valleys, especially where waterfowl or upland game birds concentrate.

# Hairy Woodpecker - *Picoides villosus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 4620

## General Description

A medium-sized woodpecker with (in most areas) a white back, white-spotted black wings (spotting is reduced in Rocky Mountains), a relatively large bill, white underparts, and a black head with two large white bars on each side; tail is black centrally, white on the sides; plumage that is white in most of the range is pale gray-brown in the Pacific Northwest; adult males have a red bar across the back of the head, young males have an orange- or red-streaked crown; juveniles (particularly in Maritime Provinces) have some dark barring on the back and flanks; average length 24 cm.

## Habitat

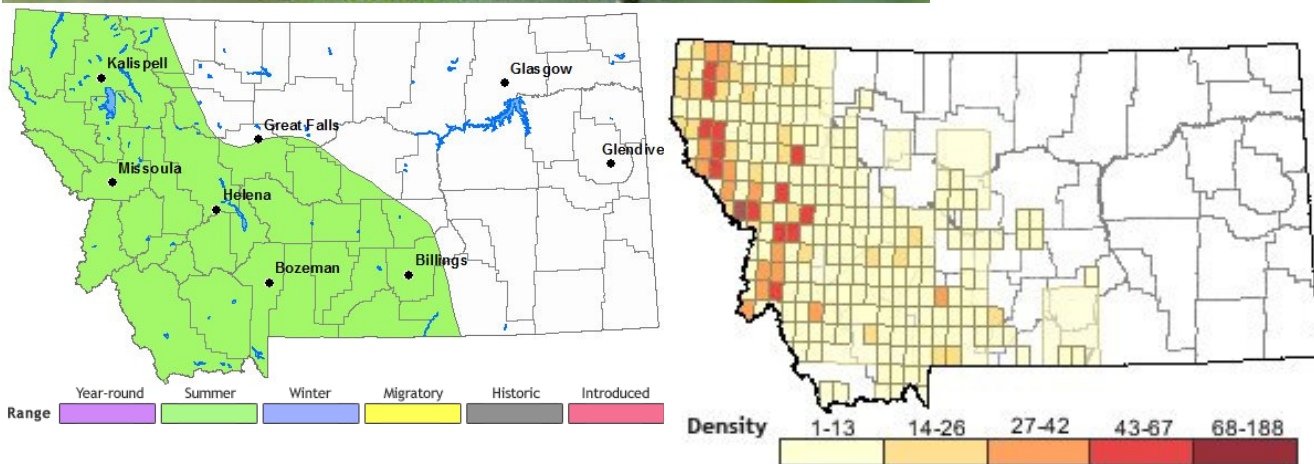
In forest burns near Missoula, birds chose larch over Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine for nesting (Harvey 1982). Primarily a forest bird; widely distributed in regions where mature woodlands prevalent. Also occurs in small woodlots, wooded parks, cemeteries, shaded residential areas, and other urban areas with mature shade trees, but often scarce within these habitats (Jackson et al. 2002).

# Hammond's Flycatcher - *Empidonax hammondii*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 4761

## General Description

Similar to the Dusky and Gray Flycatchers whose habitats occasionally overlap theirs. The Hammond's Flycatcher is a small subspecies, 12.5 to 14.5 cm, 7.7 to 12.1 g. Sexually monomorphic. During breeding season, males have cloacal protuberance, females have brood patch. Upper parts grayish olive; head more grayish with less olive; sides of breast and upper breast dark gray. Abdomen and undertail coverts yellowish to whitish depending on extent of prenuptial molt; yellow or white of abdomen bordered by darkish flanks gives some birds a vested appearance. Throat pale gray; outer web of outer tail feathers grayish white; whitish eye-ring, often thicker behind eye. Wing-bars narrow and whitish in adults and broader and buffy in hatching year birds (Sedgwick 1994).

**VOCALIZATIONS:** Call notes include a sharp peek or pip given by both sexes, and a soft, descending "*k-lear*" or "*k-lear whee-zee*" most commonly given by males. Song is a burry "*se-put tsurrt chu-lup*", lower and huskier than Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*), which is slightly more musical. The song sequence may consist of all three elements or the elements given singly or in couplets, such as "*tseep tsurp*" (Sedgwick 1994, NGS 1999). Males sing most frequently in morning and before dusk, but will sing throughout the day, and usually use perches in mid- to upper-canopy (Sedgwick 1994).

## Habitat

Inhabits cool forest and woodland, breeding primarily in dense fir, mature coniferous or mixed forests to near timberline (Sedgwick 1994).



# Harlequin Duck - *Histrionicus histrionicus*

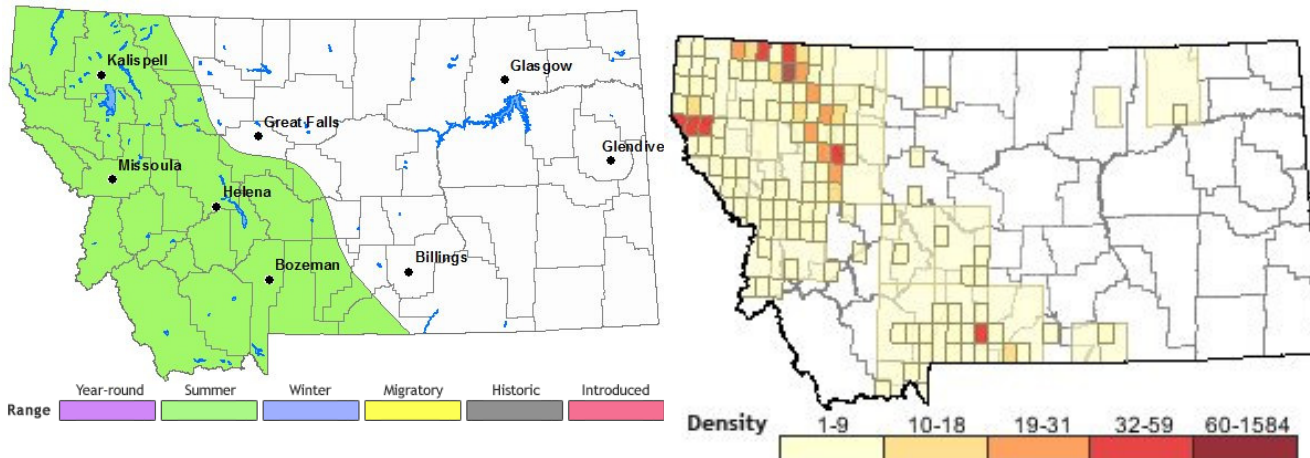


## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S2B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**  
**USFS:** SENSITIVE  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 3176

## General Description

Male larger than female. Alternate plumage of male is unmistakable: Body plumage slate blue; white bands and collars, bordered with black lines, on chest and neck; large white crescent in front of eye; small white circular patch near ear; white vertical stripe along side of neck; black streak, bordered by white and amber lines, on top of head; iridescent blue secondaries; rich dark-slate-blue belly; chestnut-brown flanks. Adult female: brown body plumage; white belly, with brown checks or spots; round white spot behind ear; faded variable white patches in front of eye; and occasionally white streaks on back of head. Juveniles and immatures much like female, but feet tend to yellow, not gray (Robertson and Goudie 1999).

## Habitat

In Montana, most Harlequin Ducks inhabit fast moving, low gradient, clear mountain streams. Overstory in Montana does not appear to affect habitat use: 1) in Glacier National Park, birds used primarily old-growth or mature forest (90%); and 2) most birds in streams on the Rocky Mountain Front were seen in pole-sized timber (Diamond and Finnegan 1993). Banks are most often covered with a mosaic of trees and shrubs, but the only significant positive correlation is with overhanging vegetation (Diamond and Finnegan 1993, Ashley 1994).

The strongest stream section factor in Montana appears to be for stream reaches with 2+ loafing sites per 10 m (Kuchel 1977, Diamond and Finnegan 1993, Ashley 1994). Broods may preferentially use backwater areas, especially shortly after hatching (Kuchel 1977), though this is not apparent in data from other studies (Ashley 1994). Stream width ranges from 3 m to 35 m in Montana. On stream gradients of 7%, occupied stream reaches ranged from 1.8% to 2.8% (Fairman and Miller 1990), while velocity at 42 Harlequin Duck observation points ranged from 0.8 to 4.1 m per second (Diamond and Finnegan 1993). Harlequin Ducks in Glacier National Park used straight, curved, meandering, and braided stream reaches in proportion to their availability, as was the case for bottom types (Ashley 1994).



No nest sites have been reported from Montana; in the Pacific northwest, nests have been reported on rocks (3); on the ground (2); in a cliff face (1); (Bent 1925, Campbell et al. 1990); in piles of woody debris (2) (Jewett 1931, Thompson 1985); in tree cavities (2); and in a cavity on a cliff (1) (Cassirer et al. 1993).

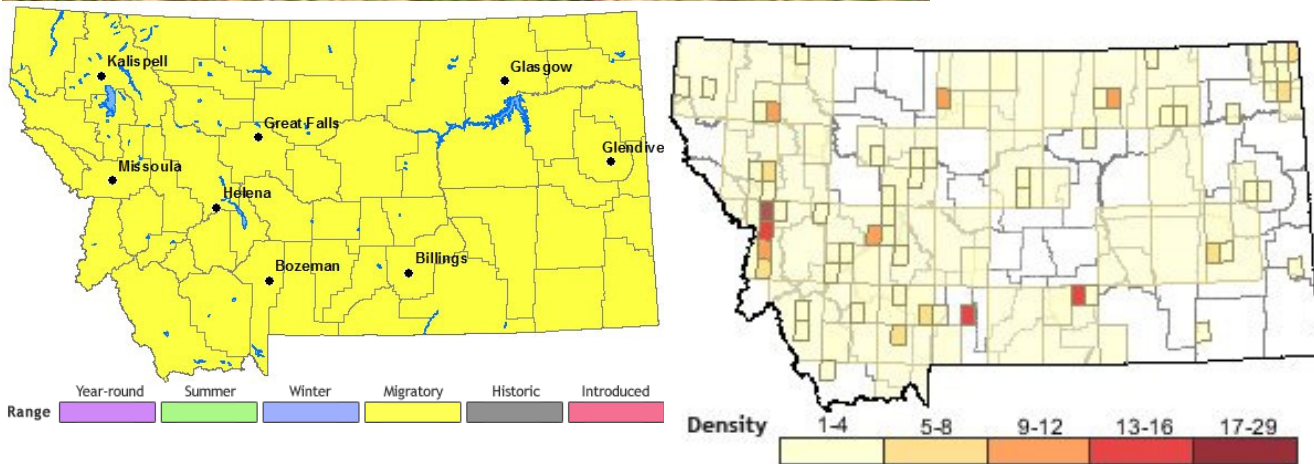
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# Harris's Sparrow - *Zonotrichia querula*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 419

## General Description

Bill pink; upperparts mostly brown, back and scapulars streaked with black; underparts mostly white. Adults in breeding plumage have black hood covering nape, crown, lores, throat, and center of upper breast; contrasts with gray face.

## Habitat

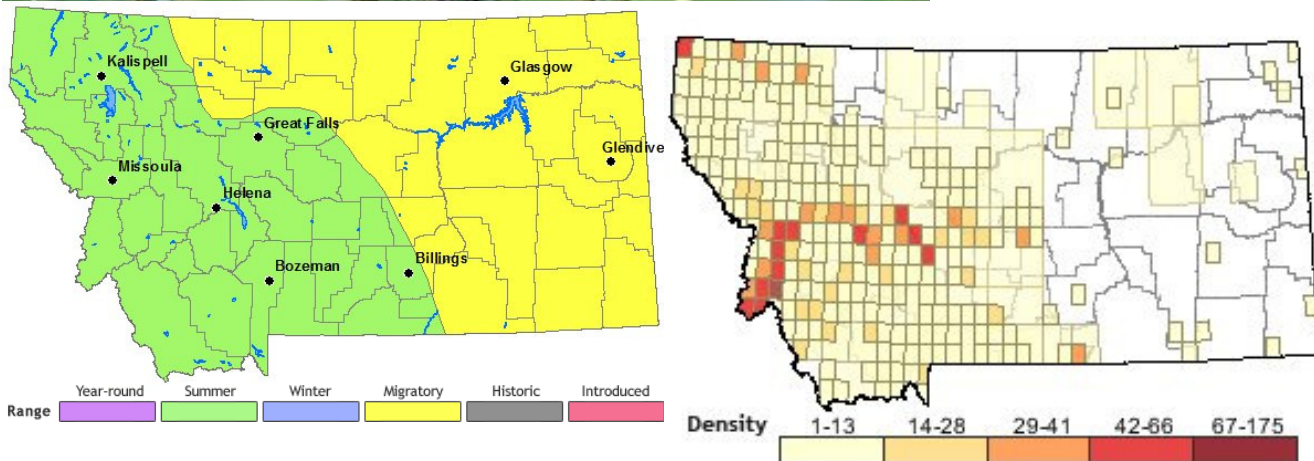
Frequents streams, hedgerows, shelterbelts, and brushy ravines dominated by deciduous trees and shrubs.

# Hermit Thrush - *Catharus guttatus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 4751

## General Description

Upperparts, sides of neck, tertials, and upperwing-coverts cinnamon brown. Rump brighter cinnamon, uppertail-coverts and tail rufous brown, contrastingly brighter than remainder of upperparts. Spot in front of eye dull black; stripe over eye grayish olive brown. Ear-coverts dark olive brown, narrowly streaked pale buff. Indistinct pale buff eye-ring. Lower cheeks, chin, and throat pale buff or cream; distinct dull black malar stripe down sides of throat. Ground color of chest pale cream buff. Sides of breast, flanks, and sides of vent pale olive brown or buff brown, merging into white on central belly and vent; undertail-coverts cream buff, pale buff, or buff white.

## Habitat

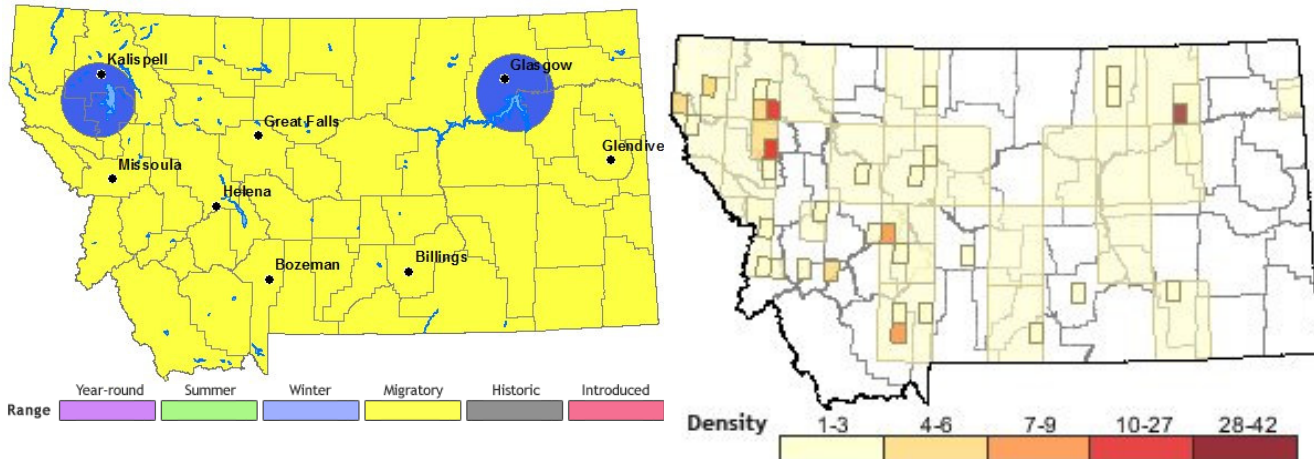
Species prefers interior forest edges such as margins of ponds and edges of meadows in forested areas.

# Herring Gull - *Larus argentatus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4N

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 239

## General Description

Adults have white heads, necks and body; the head and sides of breast streaked dusky brown in winter. Light gray back and wings with a black wing-tips. Bill yellow to light orange and pink feet.

## Habitat

Mainly islands and areas around water. Sometimes found in rocky or sandy cliffs; occasionally on rooftops near water.

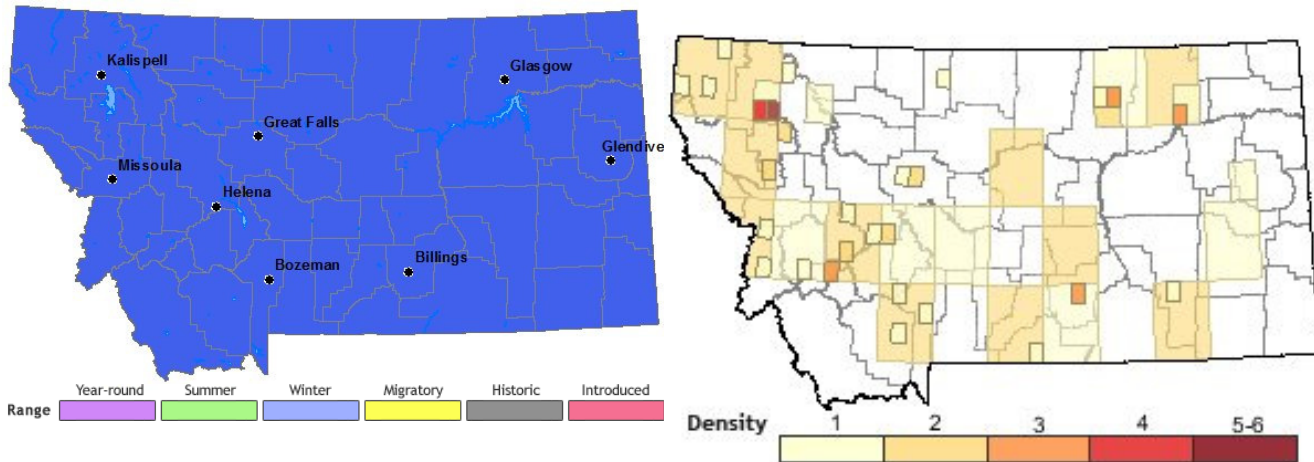


# Hoary Redpoll - *Acanthis hornemanni*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 86

## General Description

A bright little bird of the high Arctic. A small finch, with typical conical, pointed bill; length 12 to 14 cm; mass 11 to 20 g. Similar to Common Redpoll. The Hoary Redpoll paler overall. Hoarys appear bulkier, probably due to greater feather mass and noticeably fluffier plumage; bill is shorter and stubbier and surrounded by denser feathering at base so that it appears even smaller and "pushed in"; whole head appears broader and forehead steeper. Hoary Redpoll generally whiter with grayer streaking (Knox and Lowther 2000).

## Habitat

Open forest and scrub, extending farther onto tundra than Common Redpoll, but still requiring shrub, at least in sheltered hollows; substrate damp or dry. During migration and in winter, often joins with Common Redpolls. Occurs in open woodland and shrub, along field edges and weed patches and in towns and villages. During winter occurs irregularly as far south as an area including Montana (Knox and Lowther 2000).

# Hooded Merganser - *Lophodytes cucullatus*



## Potential Species of Concern

Global Rank: G5

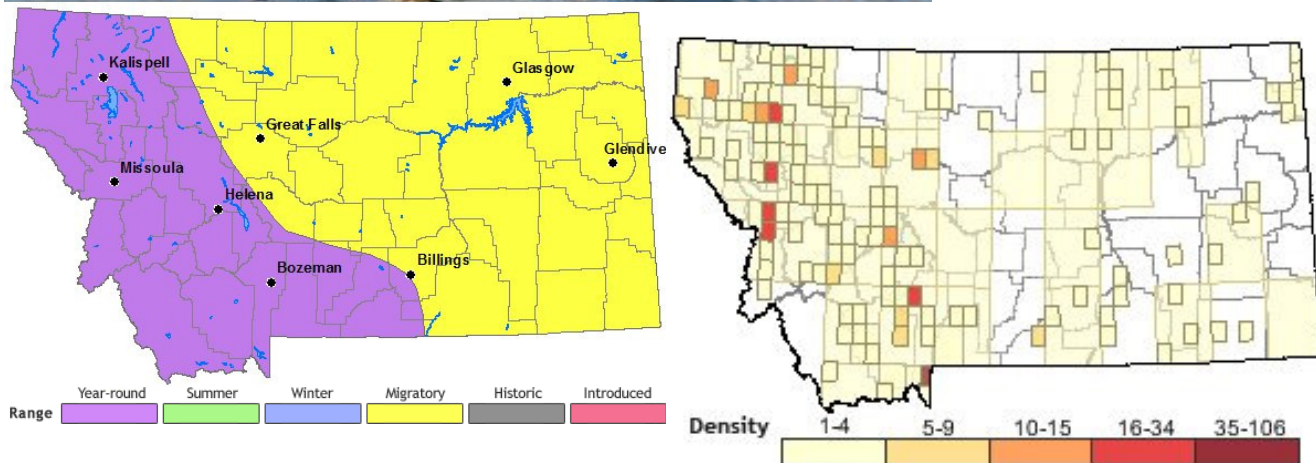
State Rank: S4

## Agency Status

USFWS:

USFS:

BLM:



Number of Observations: 842

## General Description

The Hooded Merganser is a small (length 46 cm) duck with a thin, serrated bill and a puffy crest. The adult male has a black head with a large white patch on each side, a dark back, brown flanks, and a white chest with two black bars on each side. The adult female is brownish overall, with a yellowish lower mandible. The first-winter male resembles the female. In flight, both sexes show black-and-white inner secondaries (Peterson 1980).

## Habitat

Hooded Mergansers are generally found in river areas bounded by woods and supporting good fish populations associated with clear water (Johnsgard 1986).

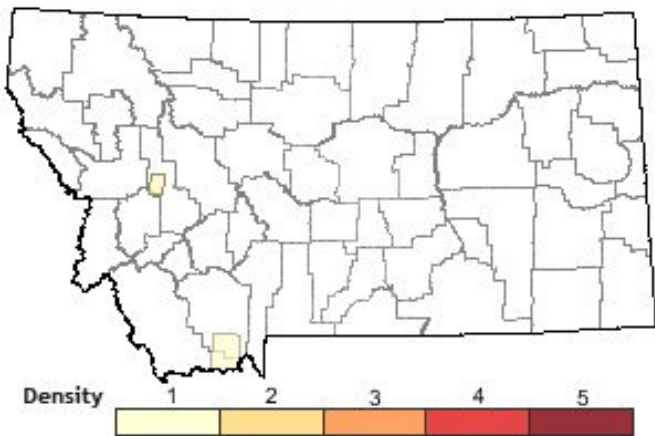
# Hooded Oriole - *Icterus cucullatus*



Accidental Species

Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: SNA

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



Number of Observations: 2

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# Hooded Warbler - *Setophaga citrina*



**Accidental Species**

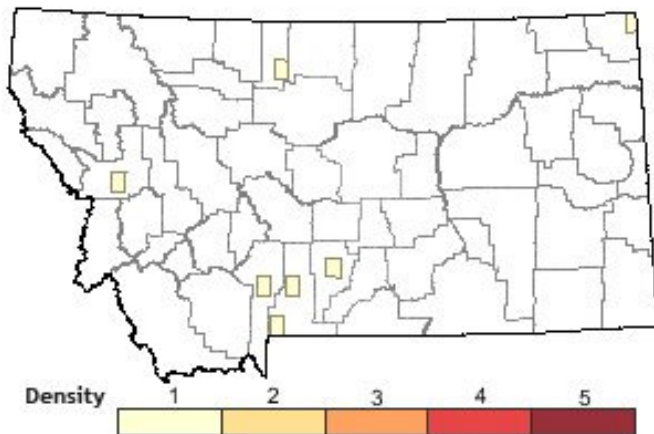
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 7

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# Horned Grebe - *Podiceps auritus*



## Species of Concern

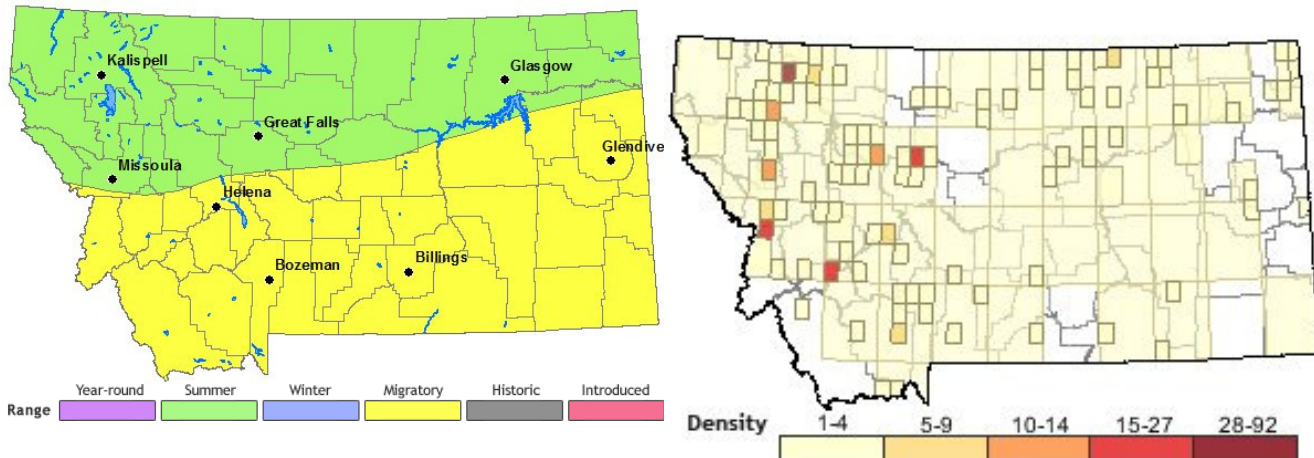
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 554

## General Description

Nonbreeding plumage (September-March) is black and white. The head is topped with a gray crown bordering on white cheeks; this border extending in a rather straight line from behind the eyes. The front of the neck, flanks and belly are dingy white. In breeding plumage, the neck and flanks are ruddy in color, the crown and cheeks are black and a stripe of white to gold feathers extends back from the eye.

## Habitat

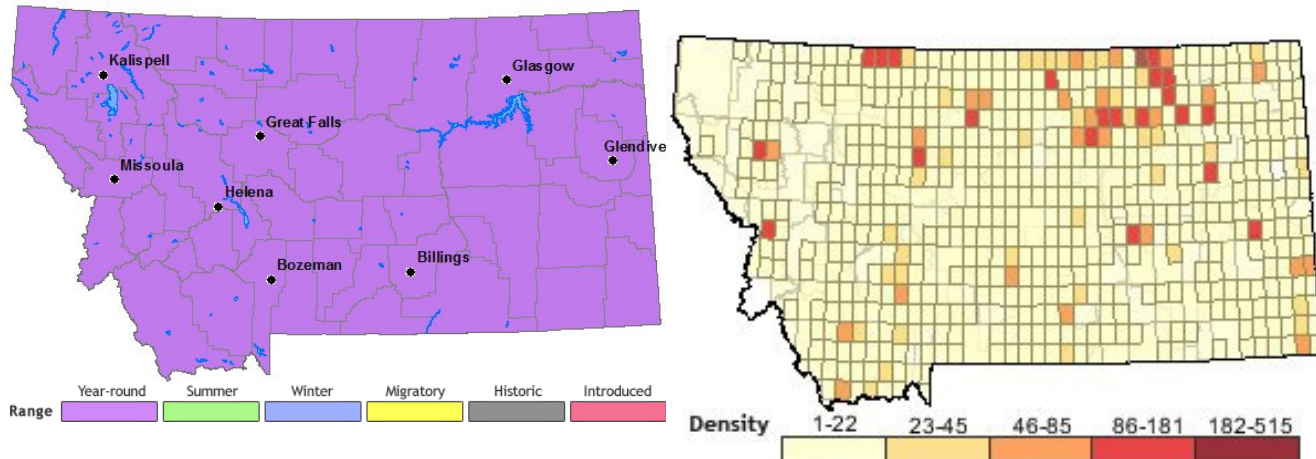
Horned Grebes use shallow freshwater ponds and marshes with beds of emergent vegetation (especially sedges, rushes and cattails), including in Montana (Dubois 1919, Weydemeyer 1932). In spring and fall the Horned Grebe is found mainly on large sized bodies of water, including rivers and small lakes. The winter range consists of large sized bodies of fresh and more commonly salt water; usually inshore (Stedman, 2000).

# Horned Lark - *Eremophila alpestris*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 15673

## General Description

Small, ground-dwelling oscine with "horns" - occipital feather tufts - which can be raised or lowered but are usually erect in males. Males slightly larger and darker than females. Basic plumage: nape, back, rump, and dorsal surfaces of the rectrices and remiges are shades of brown streaked with dusky brown to black. Breast and abdomen cinnamon to white. Head strikingly marked with black lores, cheek patches, the occipital feather tufts, and breast patch. Geographic variation is most obvious in body size and coloration, especially of the eyebrow stripe, throat, and ear coverts which vary from white to yellow. The variation in back color is strongly correlated with the color of the local soil. During winter, often occurs in mixed flocks with other species such as longspurs, Snow Buntings, and pipits (Beason 1995).

## Habitat

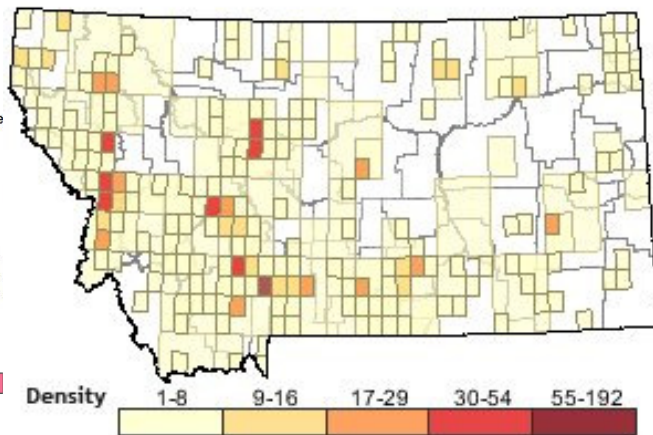
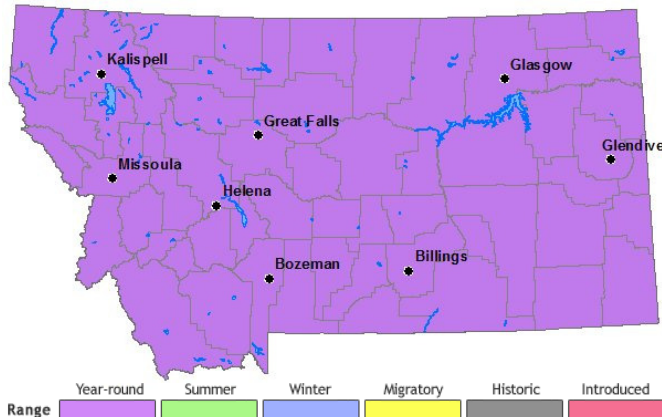
Open, generally barren country; avoids forests. Prefers bare ground to grasses taller than a few cm (Beason 1995).

# House Finch - *Haemorhous mexicanus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2231

## General Description

A small, sexually dichromatic cardueline finch. Generally drab gray-brown with heavy streaking below. One of the most striking features of House Finches is their extreme variation in male plumage coloration. In all populations males vary in color from pale yellow to bright red on crown, back, eyebrow stripe, cheek, shoulder patch, rump and ventral plumage. Some females show faint carotenoid pigmentation on the rump, crown, and breast but never as bright as males. Juveniles resemble adult females but are more finely streaked below (Hill 1993).

## Habitat

A common backyard bird throughout most of the contiguous United States. In its native west, this species occupies a wide range of open or semi-open habitats from undisturbed desert to highly urbanized areas. In the east, it is rarely found far from urban or suburban areas. Throughout its range, it has a fondness for feeding stations and for nesting conspicuously around buildings (Hill 1993).



# House Sparrow - *Passer domesticus*



**Exotic Species (not native to Montana)**

**Global Rank:** G5

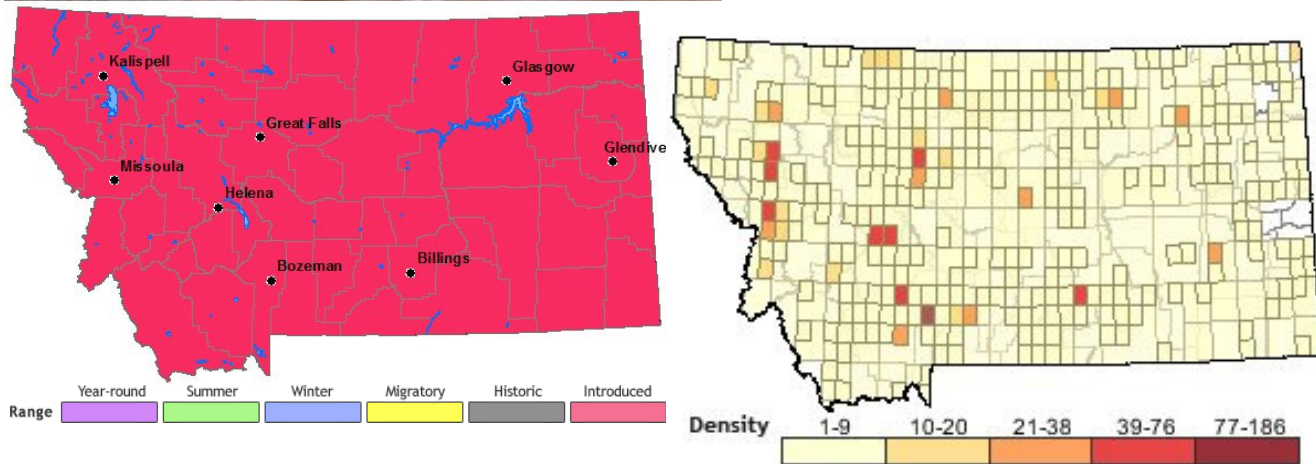
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3137

## General Description

Stout and stocky with short legs and a thick bill. Back brown with black streaking, male with gray crown, chestnut bordering crown and on nape; cheek white, black bib. Female with gray-brown crown and postocular line, pale buff supercilium, unmarked throat and breast. Tail is 3/4 of the length of the wing (Lowther and Cink 1992).

## Habitat

Breeding habitat is mostly associated with human modified environments such as farms, and residential and urban areas. Absent from extensive woodlands, forests, grasslands, and deserts. During postbreeding flocking, birds move into areas farther from breeding areas (e.g. grain fields rather than farmsteads). Winter habitat is the same as breeding habitat (Lowther and Cink 1992).

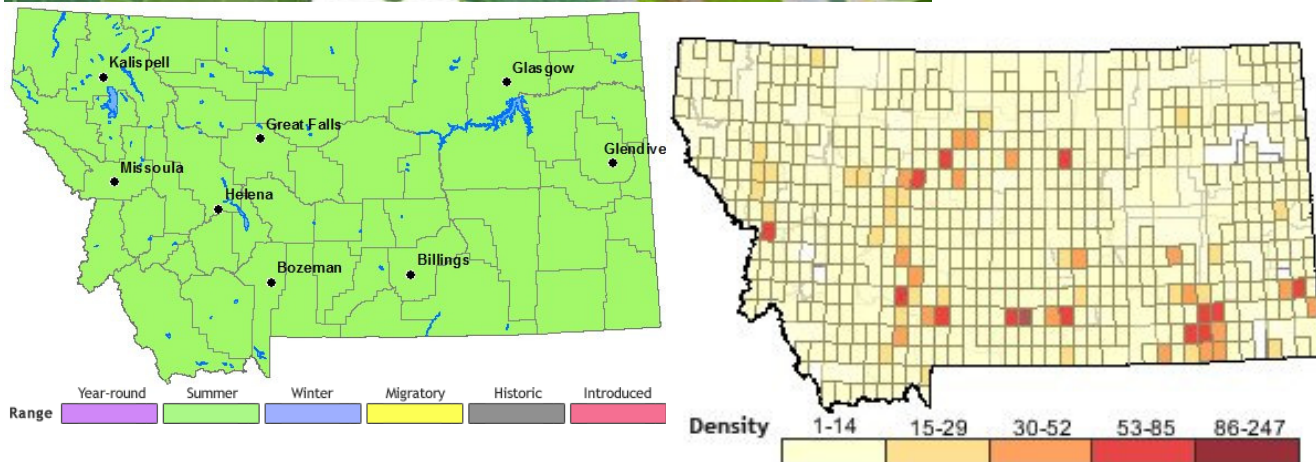


# House Wren - *Troglodytes aedon*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 6669

## General Description

The House Wren is one of the best known song birds in North America. It is moderately small: 11 to 13 cm long, 10 to 12 g. From a distance appears fairly uniform brownish gray, without obvious field marks. The northern House Wren: head, nape and back are near uniform shade of brown-darker and more rufescent in eastern populations, paler and grayer in western populations. Has only a pale, often indistinct superciliary line and no striping on crown. Throat and chest uniformly light gray, sometimes with buffy or brownish tings. Some black, dark brown and buffy barring on flanks (usually becoming indistinct forward of legs), tail, and wings and, in western individuals, on scapulars and back. Sexes identical in plumage. No seasonal changes in plumage (Johnson 1998).

## Habitat

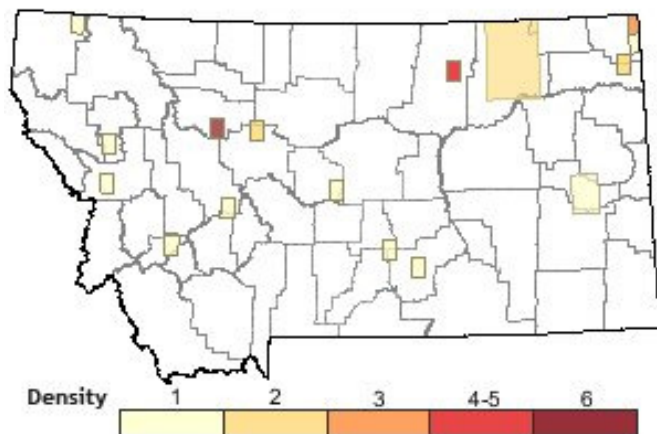
Has an affinity for open, shrubby woodlands, mimicked so well by small town and suburban backyards and city parks; has a preference for human-made "bird houses". Nests readily in small woodlots and at forest edges. In the East, known to occur primarily at or near edges of deciduous forests and in open woodlands. In western plains, found exclusively in wooded areas around water, or farmyards or residential areas with trees and shrubs. In western foothills and mountains, found in deciduous or mixed deciduous-coniferous woodlands in canyons or riparian areas, and at edges or in clear-cut or thinned areas of denser montane coniferous forests (Johnson 1998).

# Hudsonian Godwit - *Limosa haemastica*



**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 30

## Habitat

In migration, they are found along the shores of prairie marshes.

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# Iceland Gull - *Larus glaucooides*



**Accidental Species**

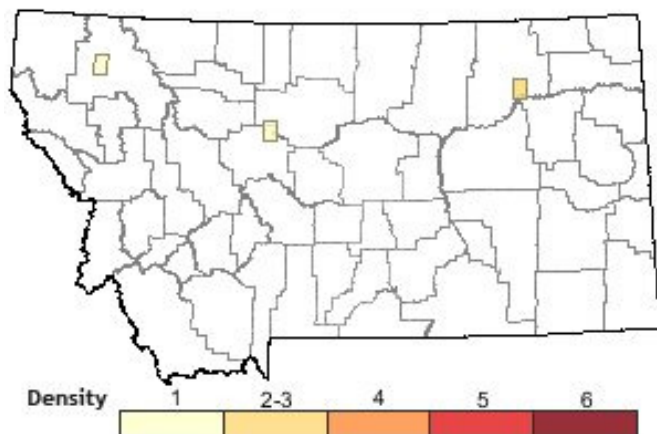
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 5

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# Inca Dove - *Columbina inca*



**Accidental Species**

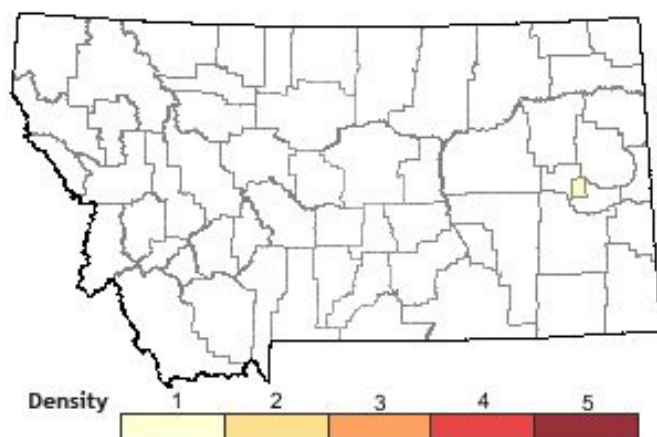
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

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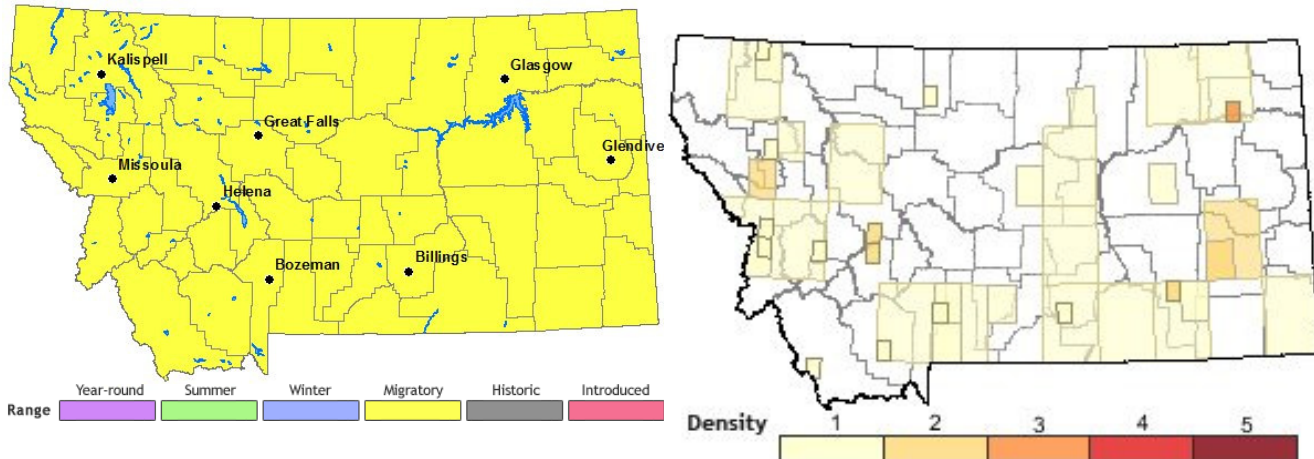


# Indigo Bunting - *Passerina cyanea*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 51

## General Description

Species sexually dimorphic during breeding season. Males have blue head and body with wings streaked black; short, conical bill. Females sometimes very similar to other brown-plumaged buntings. Plumage mouse brown above, nearly unstreaked, below buffy with whitish throat and belly, breast finely streaked dark, often bluish on shoulder, rump and tail.

## Habitat

Prefers shrubby and weedy habitats between woods and field, thickets, shrubby swamps, upland areas of old fields and upland woods.

# Kentucky Warbler - *Geothlypis formosa*



**Accidental Species**

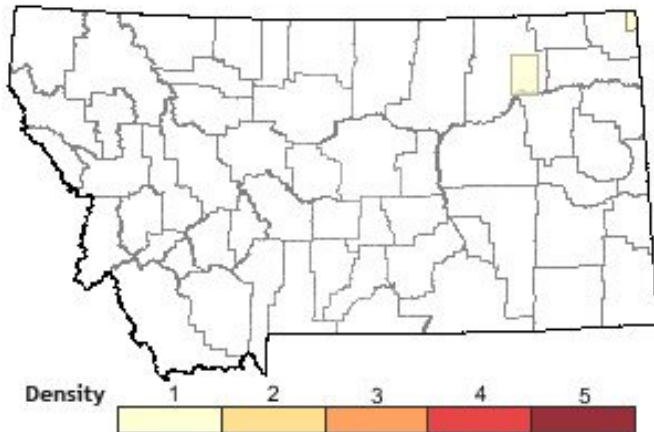
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2

## General Description

A short-tailed, long-legged warbler. Length 13 cm. Sexes are similar, but black areas are duller or smaller on most females. Bold yellow spectacles separate black crown from black on face and sides of neck; underparts are entirely yellow, upperparts bright olive.

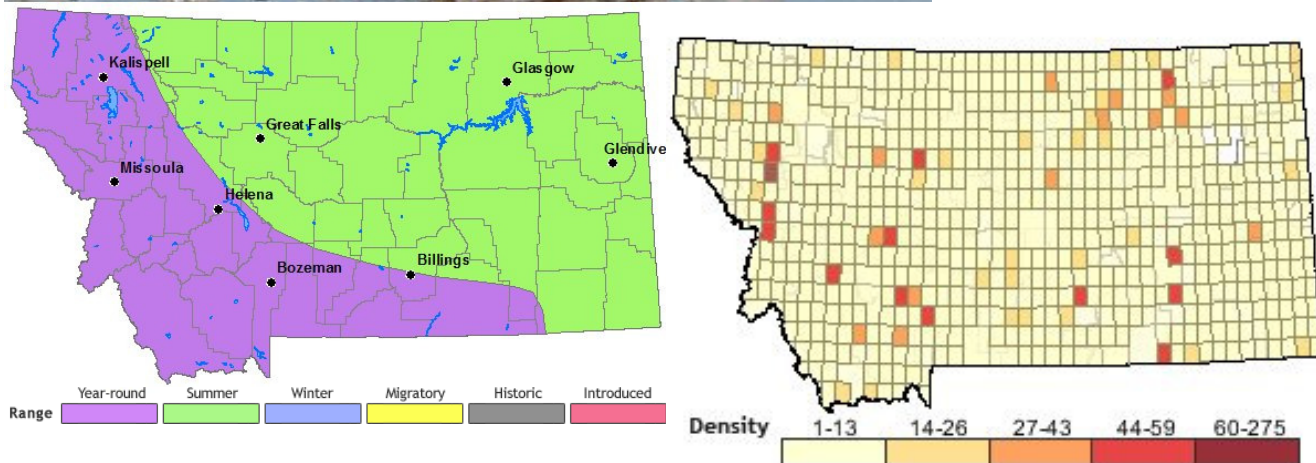
**VOCALIZATIONS:** Song is a series of rolling musical notes: "*churry chirry chirry*" with each "*churry*" repeated about six times, much like the song of the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), but lower in pitch. Primary call is a low, sharp "*chuck*"; other calls are used infrequently (McDonald, pers. obs.). See Morton and Young (1986) and Tsipoura and Morton (1988) for information on song.

## Killdeer - *Charadrius vociferus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 6607

### General Description

Medium sized plover: 20 to 28 cm long. Upper parts grayish brown; underparts white, interrupted by 2 black bands across breast. Rump and upper tail-coverts rufous. Tail long, with white tip and black subterminal band. Sexes alike and plumages essentially identical throughout year. Known for its "killdeer" vocalizations (Jackson and Jackson 2000).

### Habitat

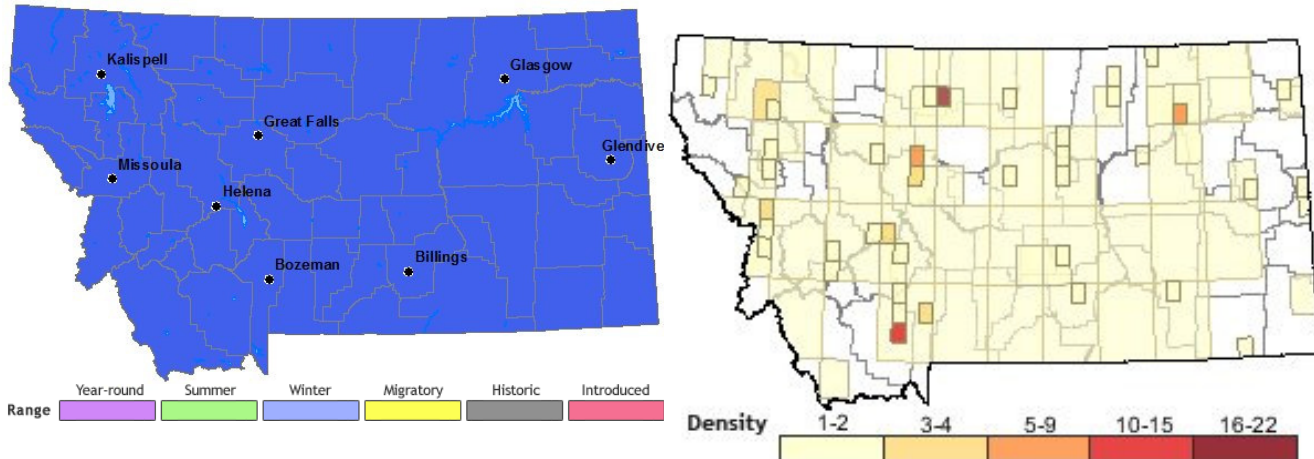
Frequents open areas, especially sandbars, mudflats, heavily grazed pastures, and such human-modified habitats as cultivated fields, athletic fields, airports, golf courses, graveled or broken-asphalt parking lots, and graveled rooftops (Jackson and Jackson 2000).

# Lapland Longspur - *Calcarius lapponicus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 216

## General Description

Sexually dimorphic in breeding (Alternate) plumage; sexes similar in winter (Basic) plumage. In breeding plumage, both sexes have upperparts blackish streaked with buff and rufous nape and greater-coverts. Underparts whitish with black streaking on flanks, and dark tail with outermost feather white. In the male, nape is bright rufous orange; crown, lores, ear-coverts, chin, throat, and upper breast black, forming a distinctive facial mask. Females relatively nondescript without black facial mask and with remaining colors duller. Center of chin and throat white. In winter, both sexes and all ages are much like summer females, but tend to be browner and paler.

## Habitat

Species found in open areas, such as fields, pastures, and tundra. Species found on ground; rarely perches.



# Lark Bunting - *Calamospiza melanocorys*



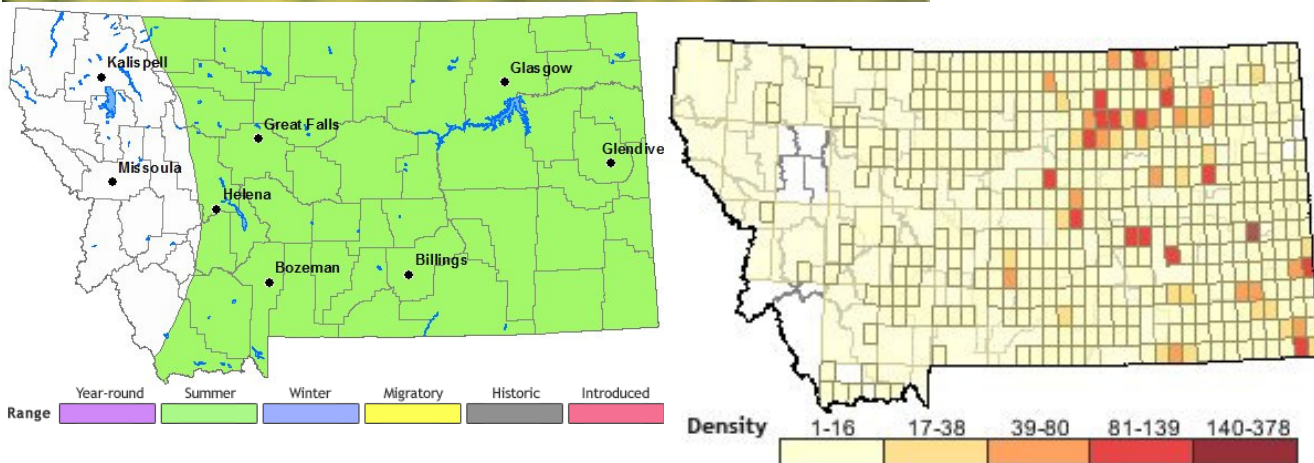
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 8324

## General Description

With their stark black bodies and white wing bars, Lark Buntings are a conspicuous resident of Montana's prairies. Their behavior also contributes to their visibility; males arrive earlier than females and set up colony-like territories so many individuals may be observed together during the breeding season. The Lark Bunting is one of six species of song birds endemic to the grasslands of North America.

## Habitat

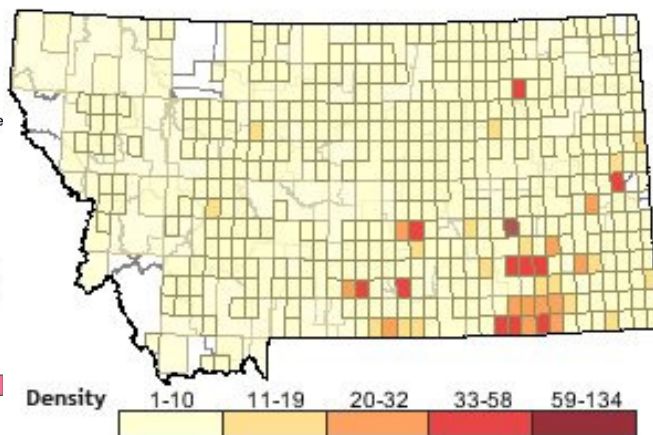
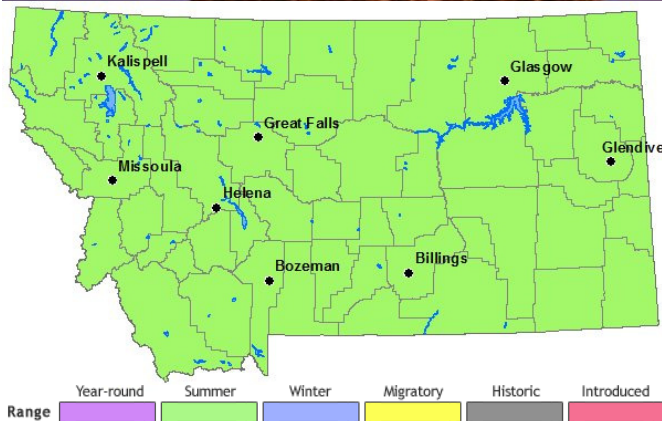
Lark Buntings utilize short-grass and mixed-grass grass communities as well as fallow fields, roadsides, and hayfields.

# Lark Sparrow - *Chondestes grammacus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3660

## General Description

The Lark Sparrow is a large (15 to 17 cm, 24.7 to 33.3 g), long-tailed sparrow with a distinctive alternating chestnut, black and white facial pattern, and towhee-like black tail with white corners, conspicuous in flight or perched. Plain whitish underparts with dark spot on center of breast. Adults with variable black streaking on upperparts, otherwise generally appearing brownish gray to buffy brown above with two pale buff to whitish wing bars. Sexes similar except that the male is slightly larger than the female. Its name infers the tonal quality of its lark-like song. Singing is most notable by males perched at height points in early morning, evening and even at night (Martin and Parrish 2000).

## Habitat

Widespread in open habitats such as shrub-steppe, pinion-juniper edges, grasslands, roadsides, farmlands, and pastures (Martin and Parrish 2000).

# Laughing Gull - *Leucophaeus atricilla*



**Accidental Species**

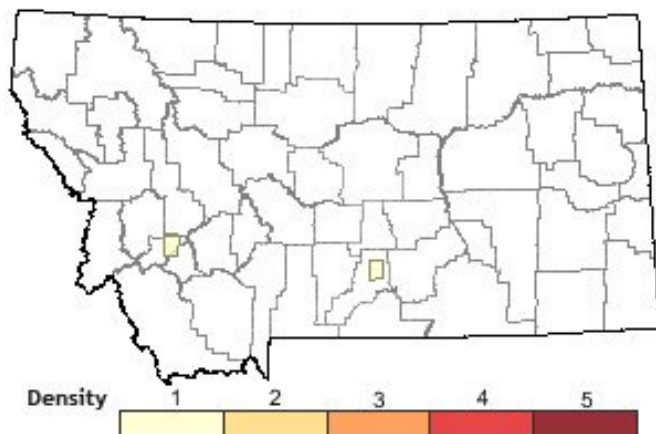
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2

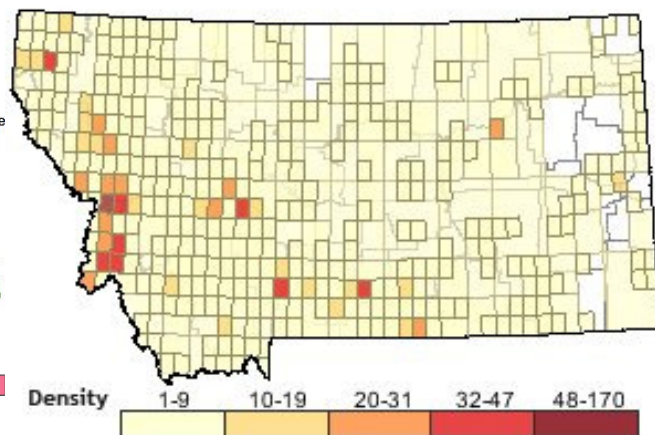
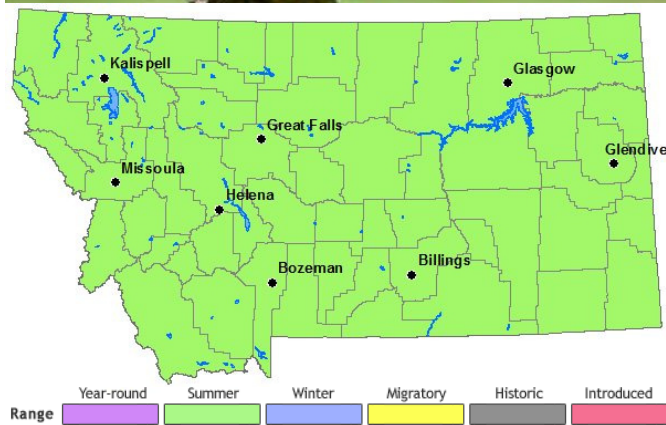
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## Lazuli Bunting - *Passerina amoena*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3143



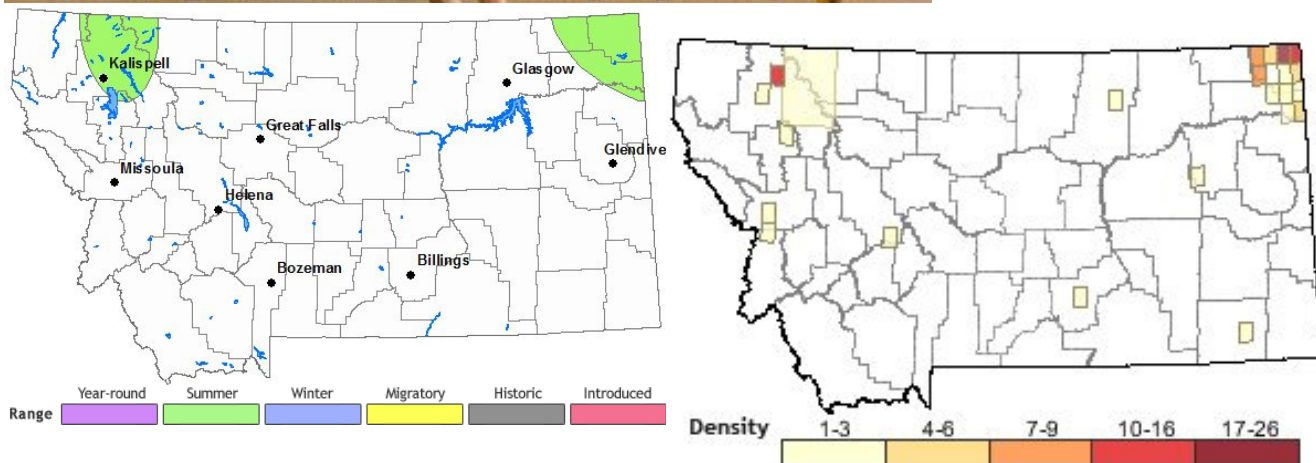
# Le Conte's Sparrow - *Ammodramus leconteii*



## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S3B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 132

## General Description

Le Conte's Sparrows are a small sparrow, usually 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 inches in length. The sexes are very similar in appearance. The face, throat, breast and superciliary are distinctly buffy or ochre in color. The belly is white. Malar stripes are weak or absent and streaking on the breast is also absent, although there is some streaking of the flanks. The auricular patch is a pale gray color. The nape is lavender to pinkish and has fine chestnut streakings (Lowther 1996). The dark crown is bisected by a white stripe (Walkinshaw 1968). The tail is as long as the wing and the tail feathers are very narrow and pointed. The wings are round and short with an edge of white present (Lowther 1996). Juvenile Le Conte's Sparrows are relatively similar to adults with buff on the face, throat and breast. However, this buff is usually duller. The crown stripe is buffy colored. The nape is unstreaked and also buffy. The breast has fine streaking (Lowther 1996).

## Habitat

Montana is at the periphery of the Le Conte's Sparrow's range. A small disjunct area of their breeding range does occur in the northwest corner of the state (Davis 1952). Breeding records from extreme northeastern Montana show this species is present and possibly expanding its known range westward from the eastern half of North Dakota. Habitat appears to be quite limited in Montana, indicated by the very few documented breeding occurrences. The areas in northwest Montana where Le Conte's Sparrows have bred are wet meadows within peatlands, often with a strong sedge (*Carex*) component. Several species of *Carex* have been documented in Le Conte's Sparrow habitat, including *Carex aquatilis* (water sedge), *C. interior* (inland sedge), *C. sartwellii* (Sartwell's sedge), and *C. nebrascensis* (Nebraska sedge). This habitat type is similar to the wet meadow bog and sedge meadow habitats Le Conte's Sparrows have been known to use in Alberta (Semenchuk 1992). Davis (1952) argues this northwestern Montana population has possibility spread south from northern Alberta.

Le Conte's Sparrows have also been found in a few other habitat types. Subirrigated meadowland with short stands

of grasses is one habitat where the species has been documented breeding (Waldt 1986). The elusiveness of Le Conte's Sparrows in the breeding habitat may account for the limited knowledge regarding them.

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# Least Bittern - *Ixobrychus exilis*



**Accidental Species**

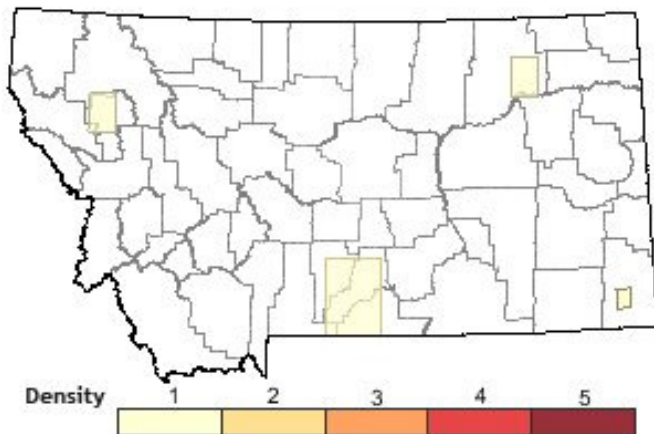
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 4

## General Description

In comparison to other herons, bitterns are more solitary and rely more heavily on auditory than visual communication. Bitterns also have a laterally compressed trunk, short legs, short outer toes, and long, curved toenails that enable them to travel through and grasp the dense, emergent vegetation typical of nesting habitats (Kushlan 1978, Hancock and Kushlan 1984). The smallest member of the heron family, the Least Bittern ranges between 28 to 36 cm in length, average 33 cm, and has a wingspan of 43 cm (Cramp 1977). It has a straight, slender, pointed bill and a large buffy patch on the inner half of the upper side of each wing. The head is slightly crested. Whitish, highly visible lines border the scapular feathers. Sexes are similar in size, but plumage is dimorphic. The crown and back of the female is purple-chestnut, whereas those of the male are black, and the neck of the female is darkly streaked (Palmer 1962). Juvenal plumage is similar to that of the adult female, but the crown of the juvenile is paler and more brown, and the breast and throat are browner with heavier streaking. The only seasonal difference in plumage is a high gloss in spring (Weller 1961). A rare, darker morph occurs, known as "Cory's Bittern," in which paler areas of typical plumage appear chestnut-colored (Palmer 1962, Hancock and Kushlan 1984). Young are covered with long, soft, ochre-colored down above and whiter down beneath (Palmer 1962, McVaugh 1975). Detailed descriptions and illustrations of the plumage development of young are provided by McVaugh (1975).

**NEST:** Usually built over shallow water (0.1 to 1.0 m deep) (Palmer 1962, Kushlan 1973, Aniskowicz 1981) and tend to be near, less than ten meters from open water (Weller 1961). A nesting platform with a canopy is made by pulling down and crimping surrounding emergent vegetation, such as cattail or bulrush (Weller 1961).

**EGGS:** Elliptical, pale blue or pale green, smooth and non-glossy, averaging 31 by 24 mm (Bent 1926, Harrison 1978).

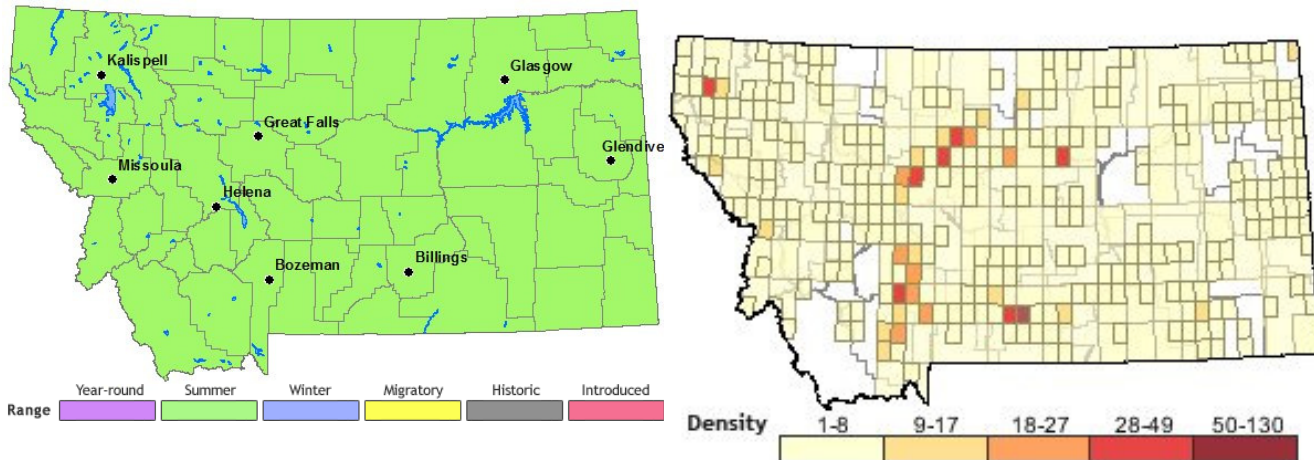
**VOCALIZATIONS:** Quite vocal with a varied repertoire of calls. The male's advertisement call most frequently heard in spring is a dove-like cooing characterized as "uh-uh-uh-uh-uh-oo-oo-oooo-oo-ooah" (Palmer 1962). Females may respond with "ticking" calls (Hancock and Kushlan 1984). When alarmed, three calls may be uttered: a loud, shrieking "quoh," a hissing "hah," or cackling "tut-tut-tut" (Palmer 1962, Hancock and Kushlan 1984).

# Least Flycatcher - *Empidonax minimus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2162

## General Description

A 13-cm-long bird with a relatively large head, gray (sometimes olive-tinged) dorsum (brownish in juveniles), bold white eye ring, two white wing bars (buffy in juveniles), whitish throat, gray-washed breast, yellowish belly and undertail coverts (whitish in juveniles), and a short, flattened triangular bill (lower mandible mostly pale). See Whitney and Kaufmann (1985) for further details on identification. Song is a dry "che-bek", accented on the second syllable.

## Habitat

Semi-open, second-growth, and mature deciduous and mixed woods; occasionally conifer groves, burns, swamp and bog edges, orchards, and shrubby fields. Often found near open spaces such as forest clearings and edges, water, roads, and cottage clearings (Peck and James 1983).

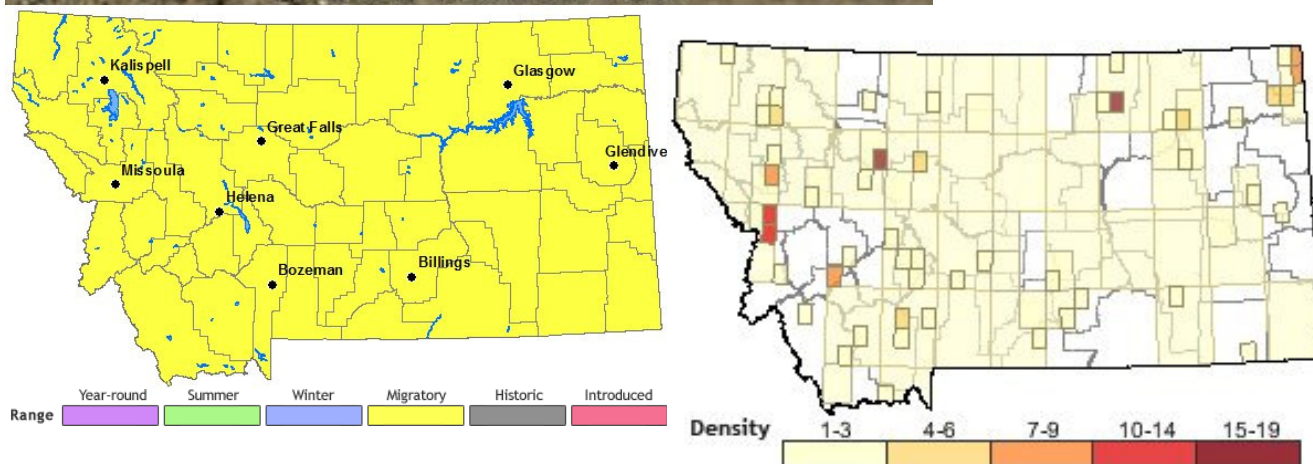


## Least Sandpiper - *Calidris minutilla*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



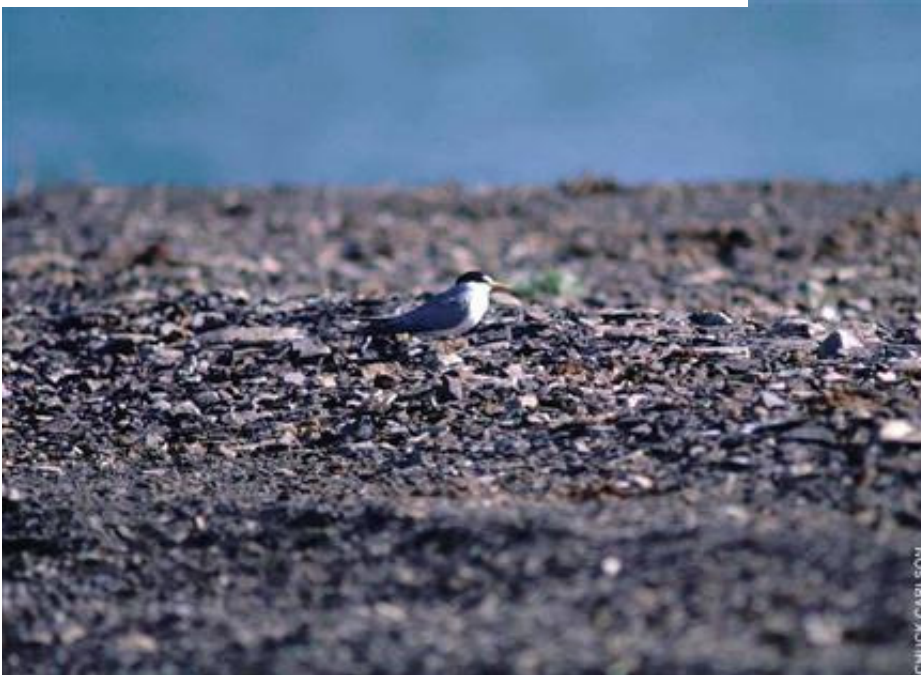
**Number of Observations:** 278

### Habitat

Least Sandpipers are found in a variety of moist habitats, often with Semipalmated, Baird's or Western Sandpipers (Johnsgard 1986). In the Bozeman area, they are seen on the grassy margins of mudflats and flooded fields (Skaar 1969).

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# Least Tern - *Sternula antillarum*

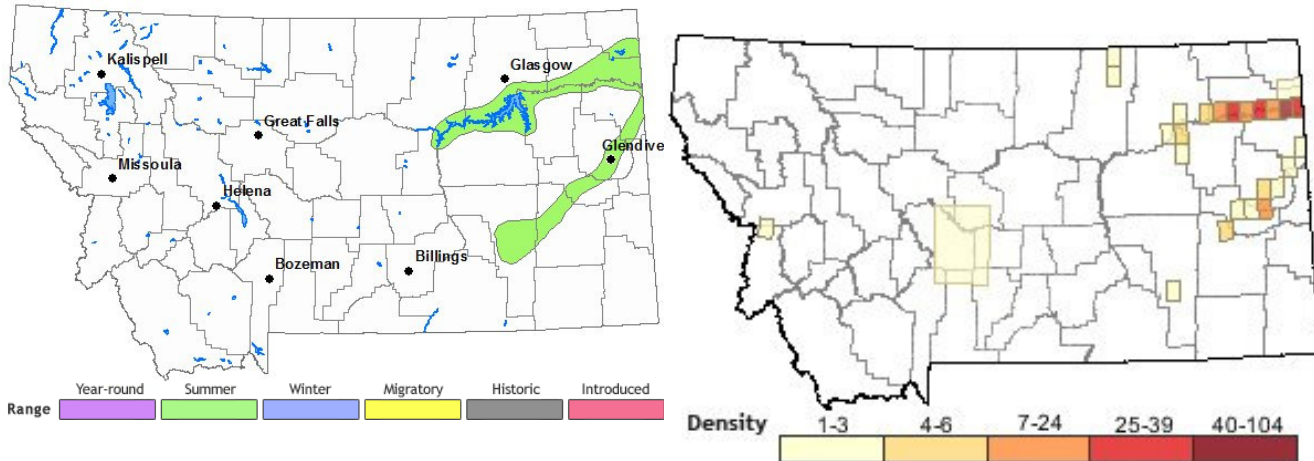


## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S1B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:** LE  
**USFS:** ENDANGERED  
**BLM:** SPECIAL STATUS



**Number of Observations:** 433

## General Description

The smallest tern in North America, the Least Tern averages 21 to 24 cm long and has a wingspan of 51 cm (Thompson et al. 1997). In breeding plumage the species is characterized by a black cap and stripe through the eye that contrast sharply with a white forehead (Thompson et al. 1997). The underparts of the bird are white, while the upperparts are gray. The outer primaries of their long, narrow wings are black. They have a short, slightly notched tail, and a slightly decurved and tapered yellow bill (unique from other tern species) with a small black tip. The sexes are virtually identical, although Whitman (1988) notes some subtle differences; the male bill is described as orange to bright yellow, while the female's is light, dull yellow, or straw-colored. The iris is dark brown (Thompson et al. 1997); the feet and legs of the male are bright orange and generally bright to pale yellow on the female (Whitman 1988).

Vocalization of the Least Tern is described as a shrill, rapid, sharp "*piDEEK-adik*" or "*keDEEK*" as well as a weak, nasal sounding "*whididi*" and high, sharp "*kweek*" or "*kwik*" squeaks. The alarm call is a sharp, rising "*zreek*" (Sibley 2000).

## Habitat

Least Terns nest on unvegetated sand-pebble beaches and islands of large reservoirs and rivers in northeastern and southeastern Montana, specifically the Yellowstone and Missouri river systems (Christopherson 1992). These wide, open river channels, and lake and pothole shorelines provide the preferred characteristics for nesting Least Terns. Sites with gravel substrate provide the most suitable sites for nesting (MPPRC 1994). One of the most limiting factors to nesting site selection is vegetational encroachment; Least Terns avoid areas where relatively thick vegetation provides cover for potential predators. Fine-textured soils are easier to treat mechanically than rocky or gravelly soils when vegetation is determined as a limiting factor in an area's ability to provide suitable nesting

habitat, but fine soils are not typically a preferred nesting substrate (MPPRC 1994).

In Montana, as in other areas, another and more important limiting factor in nest site selection is the location of nesting sites in relation to surrounding water levels. Nests are often inundated because water levels are kept unnaturally high throughout the breeding season (and high winds can cause nests to be flooded) or nesting sites are not available (either because of encroaching vegetation or because water levels are so high that beaches are under water during the early part of, and possibly throughout, the nesting season) (MPPRC 1994).

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# Lesser Black-backed Gull - *Larus fuscus*



**Accidental Species**

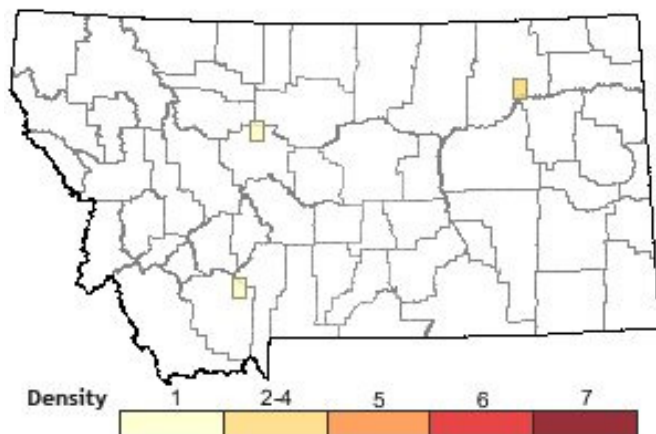
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 6

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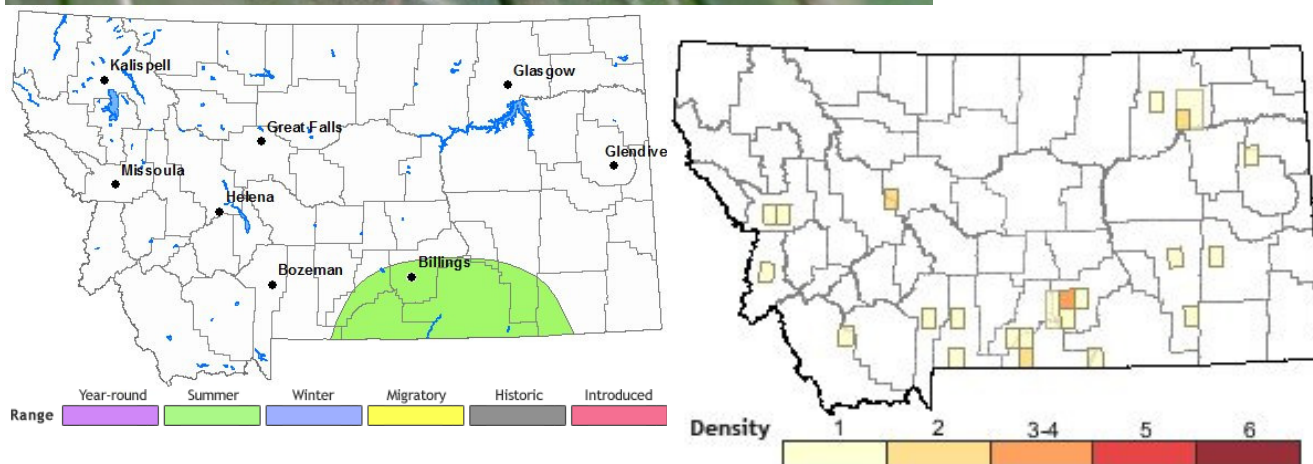


## Lesser Goldfinch - *Spinus psaltria*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SU

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 29

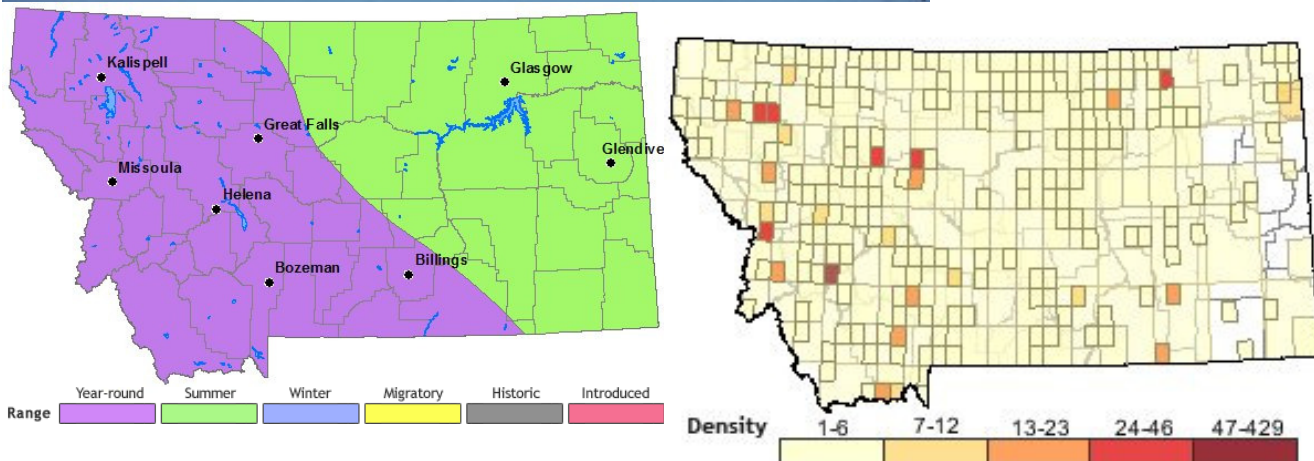
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# Lesser Scaup - *Aythya affinis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1962

## General Description

A medium-sized (41.9 to 43 cm, 730 to 850 g) black and white diving duck, one of the most abundant and widespread of North American ducks. Adults sexually dimorphic most of year. Male in Definitive Alternate plumage characterized by slaty blue bill; black head with purplish gloss; black neck, breast, and upper mantle; white flanks and belly; gray-flecked lower mantle; and black vent and undertail region. Female is fuscous to chocolate brown with white patch of varying size at base of bill (sometime broken into patches of white); upperparts darker; wing-coverts flecked with gray; bill dark gray. Iris color in males is brilliant yellow, but in females varies with age from olive brown to olive or brownish yellow (Austin 1998).

## Habitat

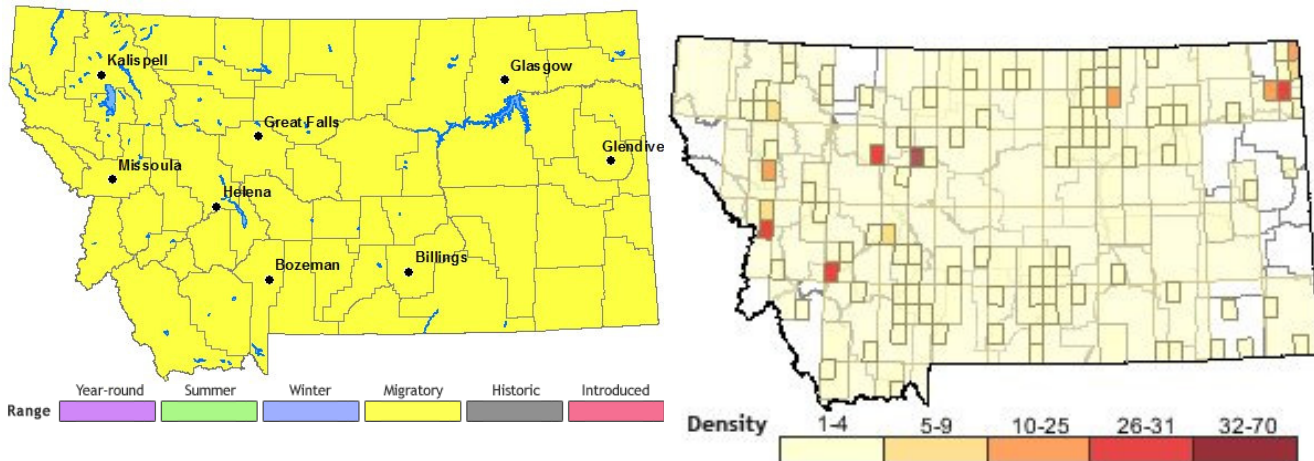
In the Bozeman area, habitat is generally restricted to lakes and ponds (Skaar 1969). Throughout fall and winter this species forms large flocks on rivers, lakes, and large wetlands. Pairs and broods typically associated with fresh to moderately brackish, seasonal and semipermanent wetlands and lakes with emergent vegetation such as bulrush, cattail and river bulrush (Austin et al. 1998).

# Lesser Yellowlegs - *Tringa flavipes*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 630

## General Description

A medium-sized (length tip of bill to tip of tail: 230 to 250 mm, body mass: 67 to 94g) shorebird, usually recognized by its long, bright-yellow legs, long neck, graceful stride, and distinctive "tu tu" call. Sexes are similar in plumage and overall size, females have slightly longer wings on average. Breeding plumage: upperparts mottled gray-brown, white, and black. Underparts white with brown streaking on neck and breast and irregular, blackish barring on anterior flanks. Basic plumage: upperparts uniform gray to gray-brown with pale spots. Underparts white with fine gray streaking on neck and breast (Tibbitts and Moskoff 1999).

## Habitat

In summer, breeders are conspicuous residents of open woodlands, meadows, and muskegs in the boreal zone from northwestern Alaska to central Quebec. In winter, they frequent a wide variety of wetland types throughout Central and South America (Tibbitts and Moskoff 1999). A migrant. It occurs in high numbers in interior North America. Primary routes are mid-continent, mostly west of Mississippi River in spring and both along Atlantic coast and mid-continent in fall (Tibbitts and Moskoff 1999). During migration, it occurs along mudflats and shallow ponds, often with vegetated shorelines. Sometimes they occur in flooded fields (Johnsgard 1986).



# Lewis's Woodpecker - *Melanerpes lewis*



## Species of Concern

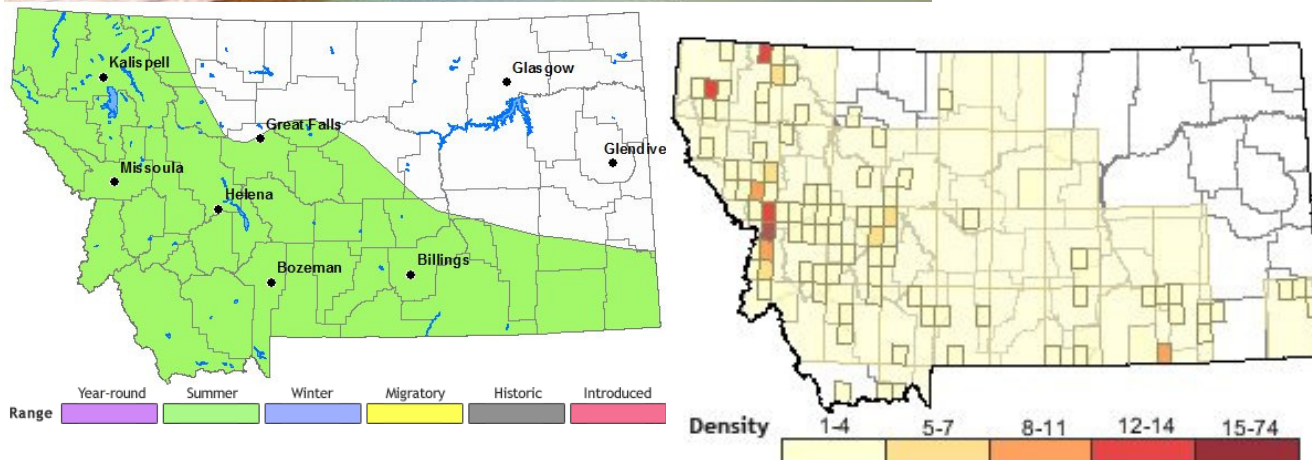
**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S2B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 411

## General Description

The Lewis's Woodpecker is a medium sized woodpecker, approximately 10 to 11 inches in length. They weigh about 115 grams. Their wings and tail are relatively long (Sibley 2000). The head, back, wings and tail are greenish-black. They have a silver-pale collar and upper breast. The face is dark red and the belly and lower breast is pinkish or salmon-red. The sexes are similar in appearance, but males are usually larger than females (Tobalske 1997). Juvenile birds are distinct from adults, having an overall dark appearance with more brownish-black on the back. They usually lack the silver color of the neck, the pinkish belly color, as well as the red on the face (Tobalske 1997).

Lewis's Woodpeckers are quieter than other woodpeckers. They commonly call during the breeding season only. During breeding male Lewis's Woodpeckers will give a harsh "CHURR" call which is repeated 3 to 8 times. Males will also give a chatter call throughout the year and commonly during the breeding season (Tobalske 1997).

## Habitat

In the Bozeman area, Lewis's Woodpeckers are known to occur in river bottom woods and forest edge habitats (Skarr 1969). No other specific habitat information for Montana is currently available. Habitat information from other Lewis's Woodpecker sources state that the breeding habitat is open forest and woodland, often logged or burned, including oak and coniferous forest; primarily ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), riparian woodland and orchards, and less commonly in pinyon-juniper *Pinus* spp.-*Juniperus* spp.) (AOU 1983). Lewis's Woodpecker distribution is closely associated with open ponderosa pine forest in western North America, and is strongly associated with fire-maintained old-growth ponderosa pine (Diem and Zeveloff 1980, Tobalske 1997, Saab and Dudley 1998).

Important habitat features include an open tree canopy, a brushy understory with ground cover, dead trees for nest



cavities, dead or downed woody debris, perch sites, and abundant insects. Lewis's Woodpeckers use open ponderosa pine forests, open riparian woodlands dominated by cottonwood (*Populus* spp.), and logged or burned pine. They also use oak (*Quercus* spp.) woodlands, orchards, pinyon-juniper woodlands, other open coniferous forests, and agricultural lands. Apparently the species prefers open ponderosa pine at high elevations and open riparian forests at lower elevations (Bock 1970, Tobalske 1997). In the Blue Mountains of Oregon, they showed a preference for open stands near water (Thomas et al. 1979). Because the species catches insects from the air, perches near openings or in open canopy are important for foraging habitat (Bock 1970, Tobalske 1997).

Lewis's Woodpeckers often use burned pine forests, although suitability of post-fire habitats varies with the age, size, and intensity of the burn, density of remaining snags, and the geographic region. Birds may move to unburned stands once the young fledge (Block and Brennan 1987, Tobalske 1997, Saab and Dudley 1998). They have been generally considered a species of older burns rather than new ones, moving in several years post-fire once dead trees begin to fall and brush develops, five to thirty years after fire (Bock 1970, Block and Brennan 1987, Caton 1996, Linder and Anderson 1998). However, on a two- to four-year-old burn in Idaho they were the most common cavity-nester, and occurred in the highest nesting densities ever recorded for the species (Saab and Dudley 1998). As habitat suitability declines, however, numbers decline. For example, in Wyoming, the species was more common in a seven-year-old burn than in a twenty-year-old burn (Linder and Anderson 1998). Overall, suitable conditions include an open canopy, availability of nest cavities and perches, abundant arthropod prey, and a shrubby understory (Linder and Anderson 1998, Saab and Dudley 1998).

Unlike other woodpeckers, Lewis's Woodpeckers are not morphologically well adapted to excavate cavities in hard wood. They tend to nest in a natural cavity, abandoned Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) hole, or previously used cavity, 1 to 52 meters above ground. Sometimes they will excavate a new cavity in a soft snag (standing dead tree), dead branch of a living tree, or rotting utility pole (Harrison 1979, Tobalske 1997). The mated pair may return to the same nest site in successive years. On partially logged burns with high nesting densities in Idaho, nest sites were characterized by the presence of large, soft snags and an average of 62 snags per hectare that had more than 23-centimeter diameter at breast height (dbh) (Saab and Dudley 1998).

In late summer, wandering flocks move from valleys into mountains or from breeding habitat to orchards. In winter, they use oak woodlands and nut and fruit orchards. An important habitat feature in many wintering areas is the availability of storage sites for grains or mast, such as tree bark (e.g. bark of mature cottonwood trees) or power poles with desiccation cracks (Bock 1970, Tobalske 1997). In southwestern Arizona and southeastern California, Lewis's Woodpeckers may use scrub oak, pecan orchards, and cottonwoods, but more study is needed in this area (Bock 1970). In Mexico, they use open and semi-open woodlands, especially those with oaks (Howell and Webb 1995).

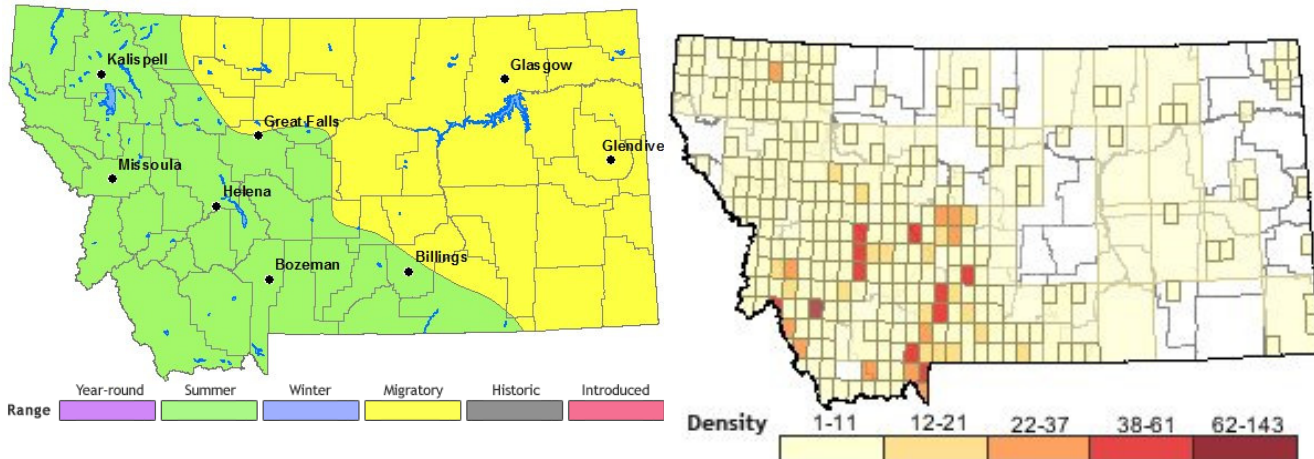
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# Lincoln's Sparrow - *Melospiza lincolnii*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3069

## General Description

Small sparrow, sexually monomorphic in plumage. Usually solitary, highly secretive in behavior. Most easily distinguished from other sparrows by its rich, wrenlike song. Plumage grayish brown with fine black streaks and rusty edges on wings and tail; face and side of neck is more uniformly gray than in similar sparrows; narrow buffy eye-ring. Broad, buffy chest band with fine, black streaking continuing down flanks, contrasting with white belly, distinguishes Lincoln's Sparrow from all other adult sparrows. Black streaking sometimes converges into central chest spot as in Song Sparrow (Ammon 1995).

## Habitat

Breeding range: in subalpine and montane zones, found mainly in boggy, willow, sedge, and moss-dominated habitats, particularly where shrub cover is dense. At lower elevations, also prefers mesic willow shrubs, but can be found in mixed deciduous wood groves such as aspen and cottonwoods. During spring and fall migration will be found in shrub-dominated habitats providing cover, particularly riparian sites. Winters primarily in Mexico (Ammon 1995).

# Little Blue Heron - *Egretta caerulea*



**Accidental Species**

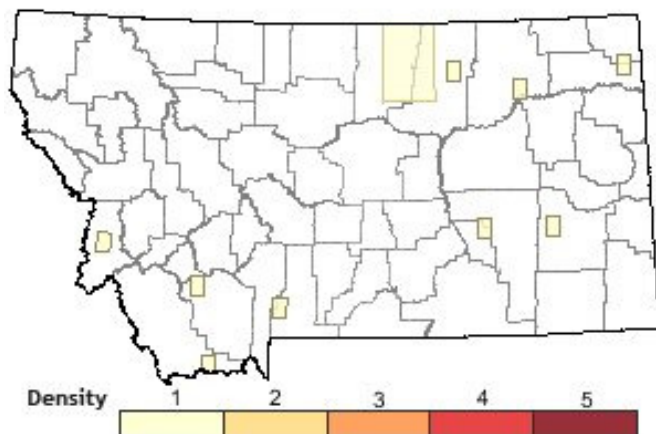
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 10

## General Description

See Kaufman (1991) for detailed information on identification.

# Little Gull - *Hydrocoloeus minutus*



**Accidental Species**

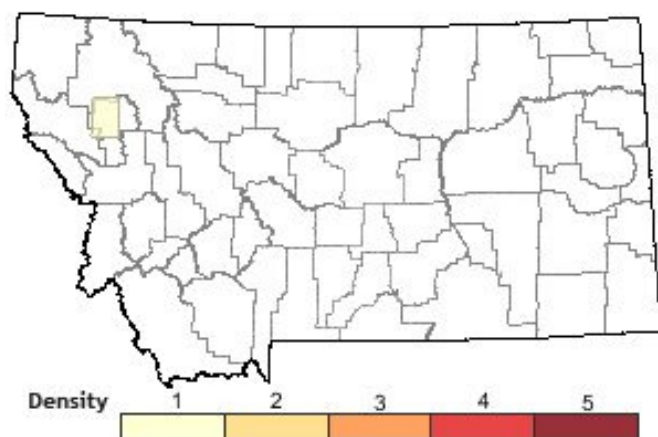
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

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# Loggerhead Shrike - *Lanius ludovicianus*



## Species of Concern

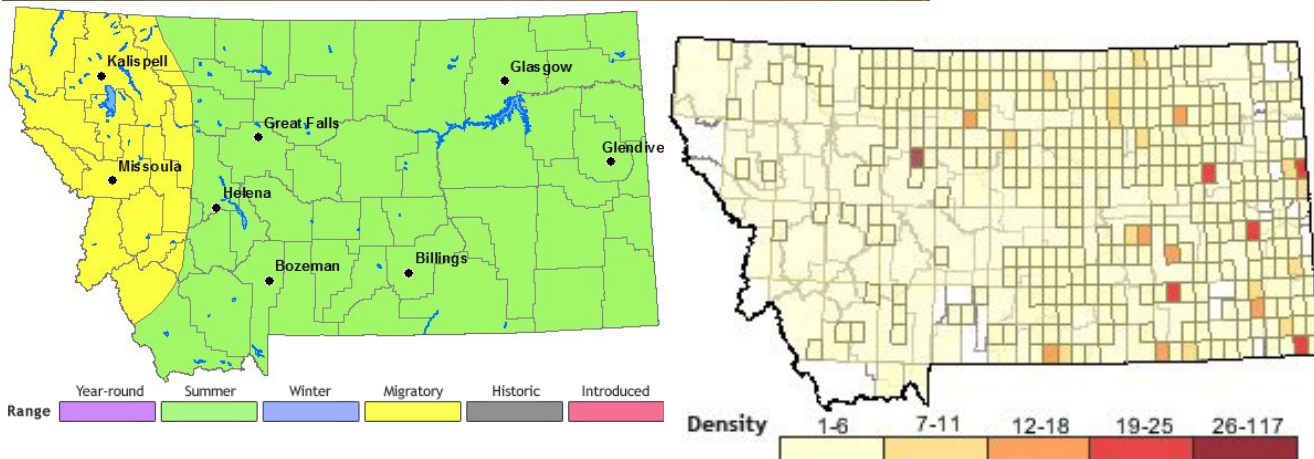
**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 1392

## General Description

Slightly smaller than the American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), the total length of this bird averages 23 cm. Males and females are similar in appearance. This species has a stout, hooked bill that has dark upper and lower mandibles. It has a broad black mask extending above the eye and thinly across top of bill. Its head and back are covered with a bluish-gray cowl, while its underparts and rump are white or grayish-white (underparts are very faintly barred in adults). It has a black tail with white tip and large white patches on black wings. Juveniles are paler and barred overall, with brownish-gray upperparts and buffy wing patches (Miller 1931, Fraser and Luukkonen 1986). Most nests are made of coarse twigs with a lining of plant material and animal hair (Fraser and Luukkonen 1986).

## Habitat

In Idaho, nests are found in sagebrush (65%), bitterbush, and greasewood, and are equally successful in all three (Woods and Cade 1996).

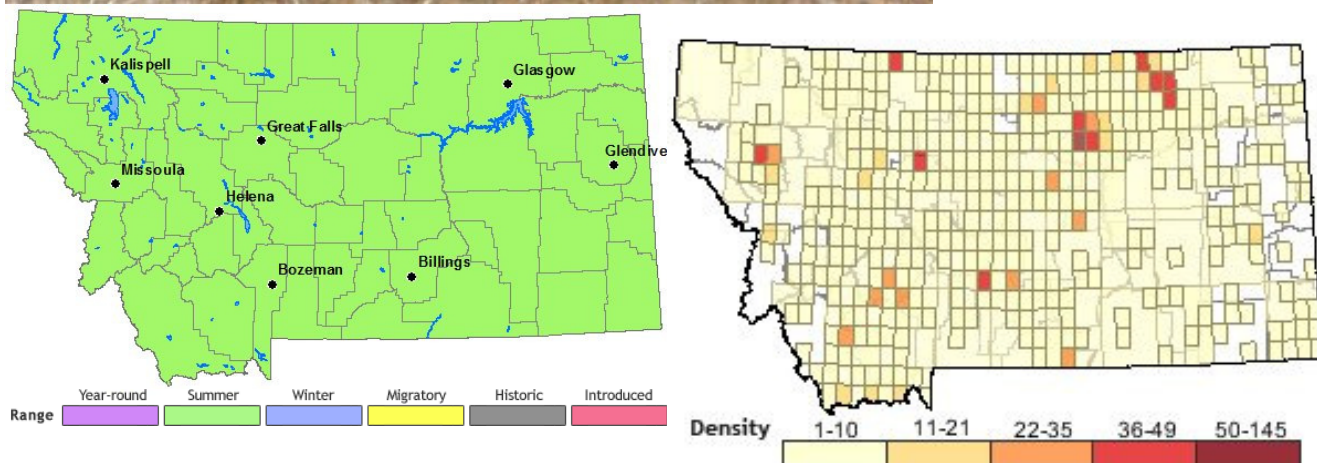
# Long-billed Curlew - *Numenius americanus*



## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



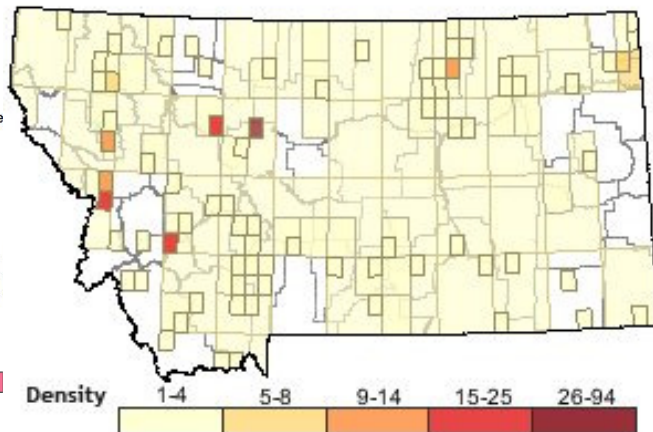
**Number of Observations:** 3252

# Long-billed Dowitcher - *Limnodromus scolopaceus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 486

## Habitat

In migration, they are found in grassy marshes (Johnsgard 1986).

# Long-billed Murrelet - *Brachyramphus perdix*



**Accidental Species**

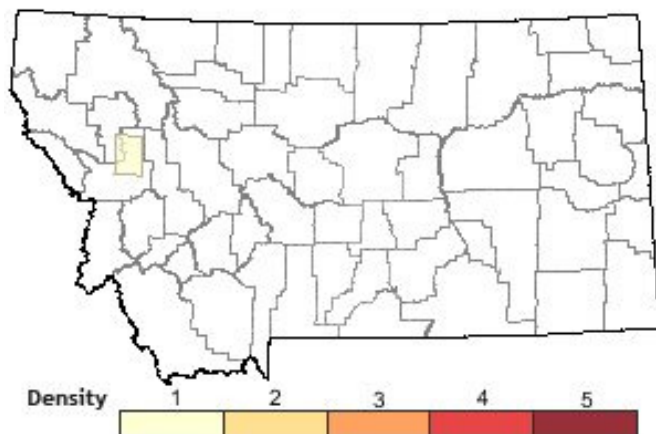
**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

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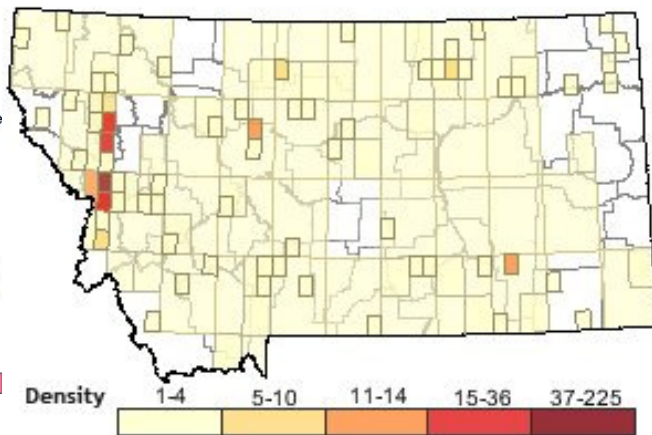
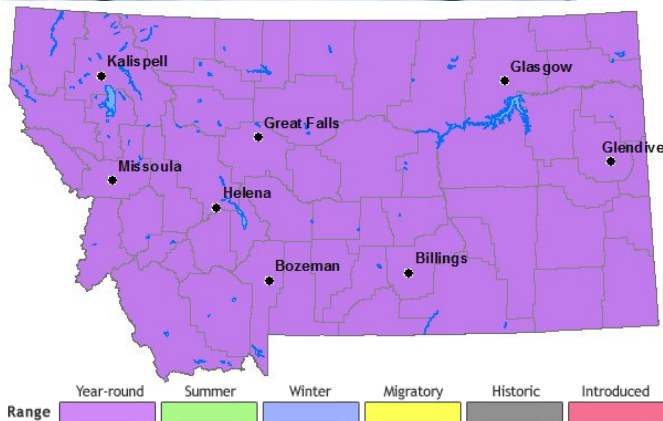


# Long-eared Owl - *Asio otus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 784

## General Description

Tufts appear to sit on the middle of the head above the eyes. Eyes yellow, bill black, and throat dark. Facial disk circular and rusty/brown; color intensity varies. Chest and belly are mixed with horizontal and vertical markings. Ventrally, mottled brown. Dorsally, the back is mottled with mixtures of brown. **SIZE:** 13 to 16 inches. **WEIGHT:** eight to 10 ounces. **VOICE:** A soft, "Hoo, hoo, hoo," varying in number and given at two to three-second intervals.

## Habitat

Long-eared Owls are most often observed in hedgerows, woody draws, and juniper thickets, although they do occur within the forest edge. They are predominantly open-country hunters; however, they are seldom seen because of their nocturnal habits.

# Long-tailed Duck - *Clangula hyemalis*



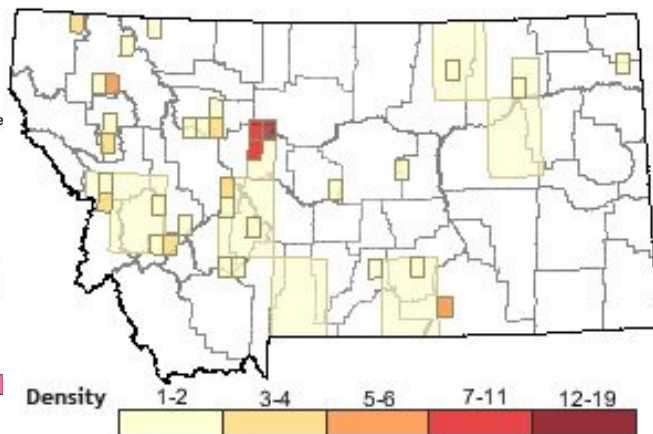
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 133

## Habitat

During migration they are likely to be observed on reservoirs, lakes or large rivers, usually far from shore (Johnsgard 1986).

## Long-tailed Jaeger - *Stercorarius longicaudus*



**Accidental Species**

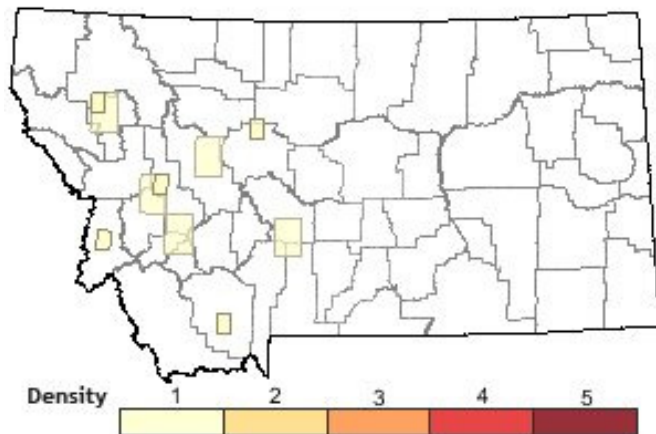
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 10

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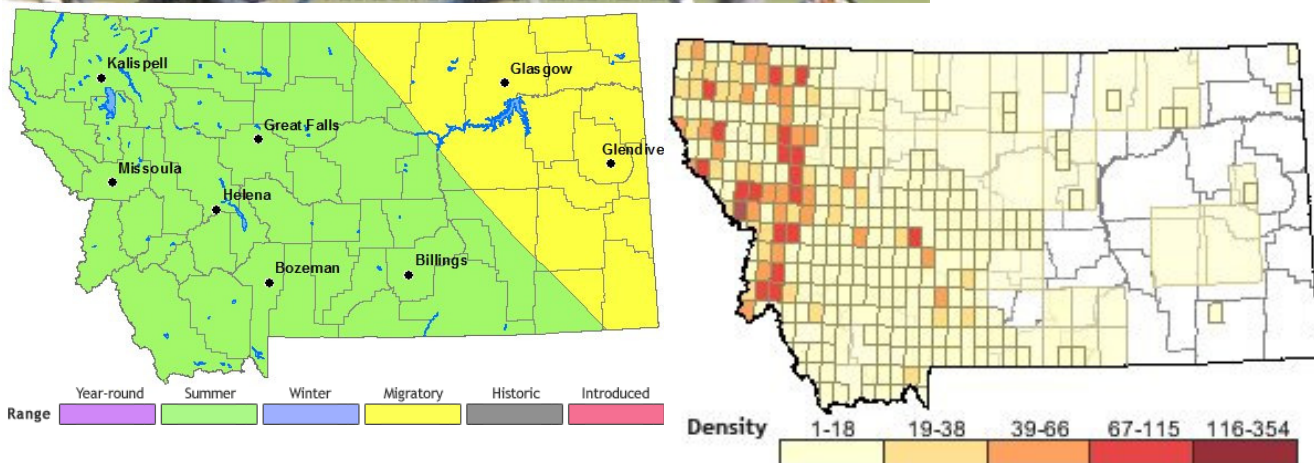


# MacGillivray's Warbler - *Geothlypis tolmiei*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 9526

## General Description

Generally shy and elusive and often difficult to detect. A small wood-warbler, 10 to 15 cm. Green above, yellow below, with gray hood. White eye crescents, 1 above and below each eye, present in all plumages. Immatures have yellow underparts, olive-green upperparts and eye crescents, brown-gray (not gray) hood; throat tends to be grayish white (Pitocchelli 1995).

## Habitat

Commonly found in riparian habitat and clearcuts of northern coniferous forests along the Rocky Mountains. Forages along streams or in dense second growth (Pitocchelli 1995).

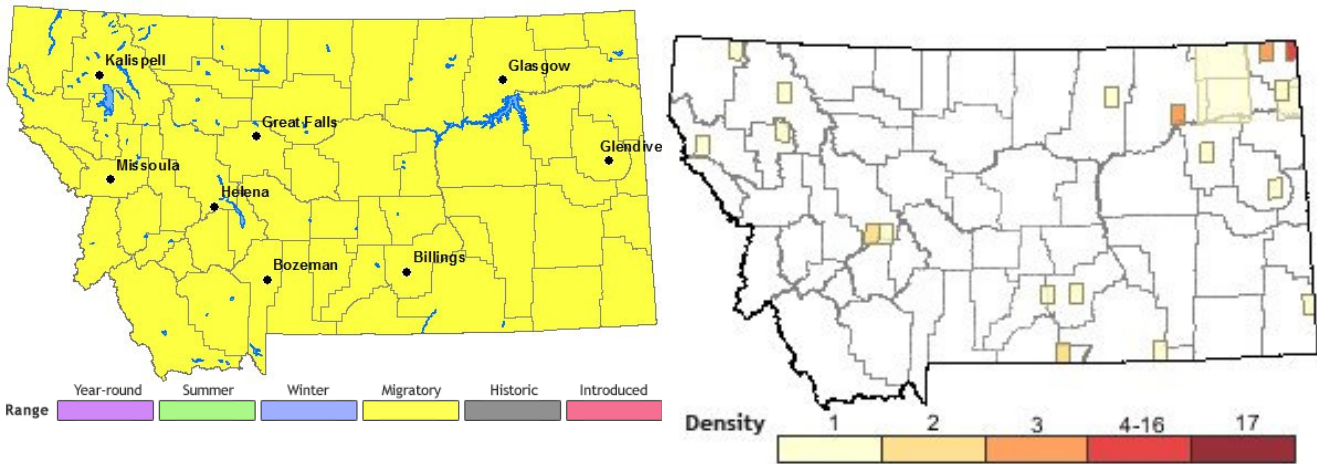


# Magnolia Warbler - *Setophaga magnolia*



Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: SNA

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



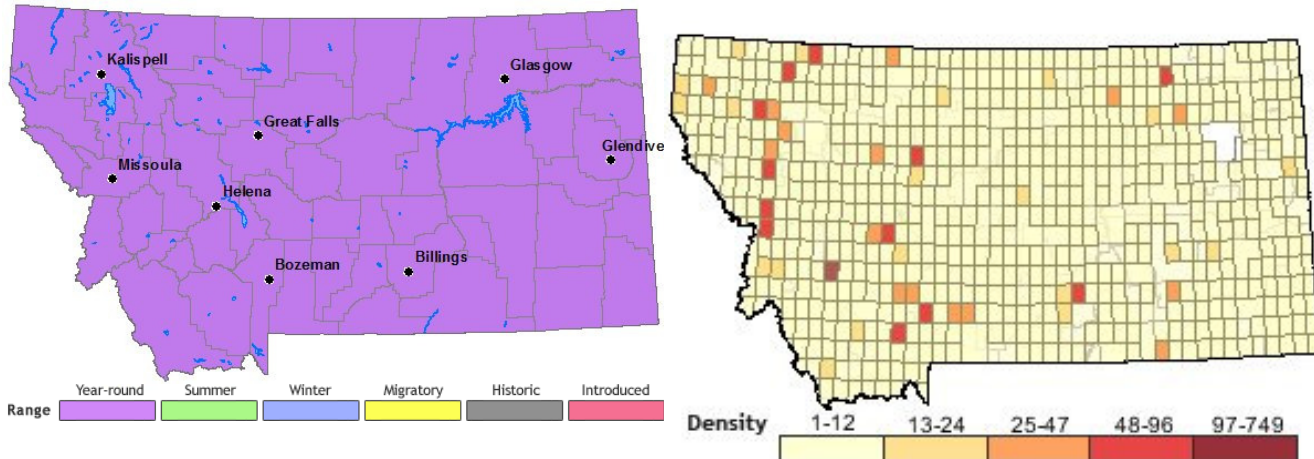
Number of Observations: 41

# Mallard - *Anas platyrhynchos*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 7731

## General Description

Medium sized dabbling duck with stocky build. Length: 50 to 65cm; mass: 1000 to 1300 g. Strongly sexually dimorphic. Adult male in breeding plumage has dark-green head, narrow white neck-ring, chestnut-brown breast, brownish-gray upperparts, grayish underparts, black rump and under tail-coverts, white outer tail-feathers and strongly recurved black central tail-feathers. In basic plumage, held briefly in late summer, the male retains its solid dark-greenish crown, warm-brown breast, darker upperparts, and slight upturned central tail-feathers.. Female plumage is similar year-round. Has broken streaky pattern of buff, white, gray, or black on brown feathers, white outer tail-feathers, contrastingly pale belly and under tail-coverts and prominent dark eyeline. Juvenal plumage similar to female but averages darker, with notched tail feathers (Drilling, Tittman, and McKinney 2002).

## Habitat

In North America, the Mallard is the most abundant duck species. Its success in the wild reflects its adaptability to varied habitats, its hardiness in cold climates, and tolerance of human activities. Usual nest site is in uplands close to water. Nests in wide variety of situations with dense cover, including grasslands, marshes, bogs, riverine floodplains, dikes, roadside ditches, pastures, cropland, shrubland, fence lines, rock piles, forests, and fragments of cover around farmsteads (Drilling, Tittman, and McKinney 2002). Comments on habitat are in Holm (1984).

# Manx Shearwater - *Puffinus puffinus*



**Accidental Species**

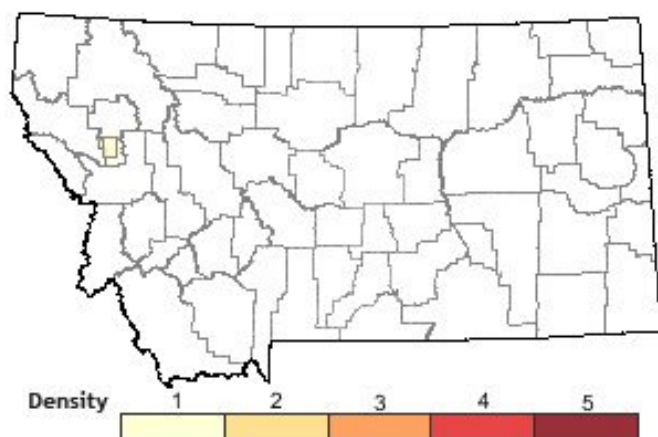
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

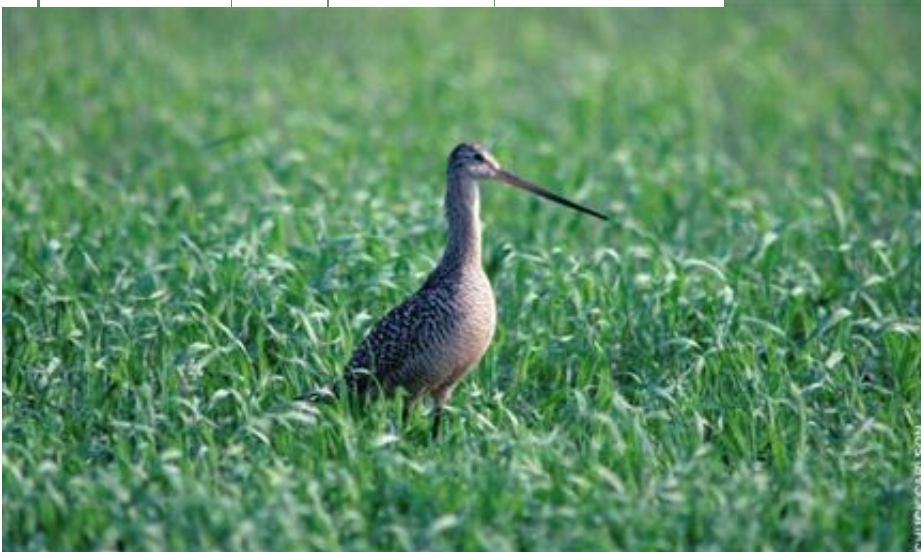
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

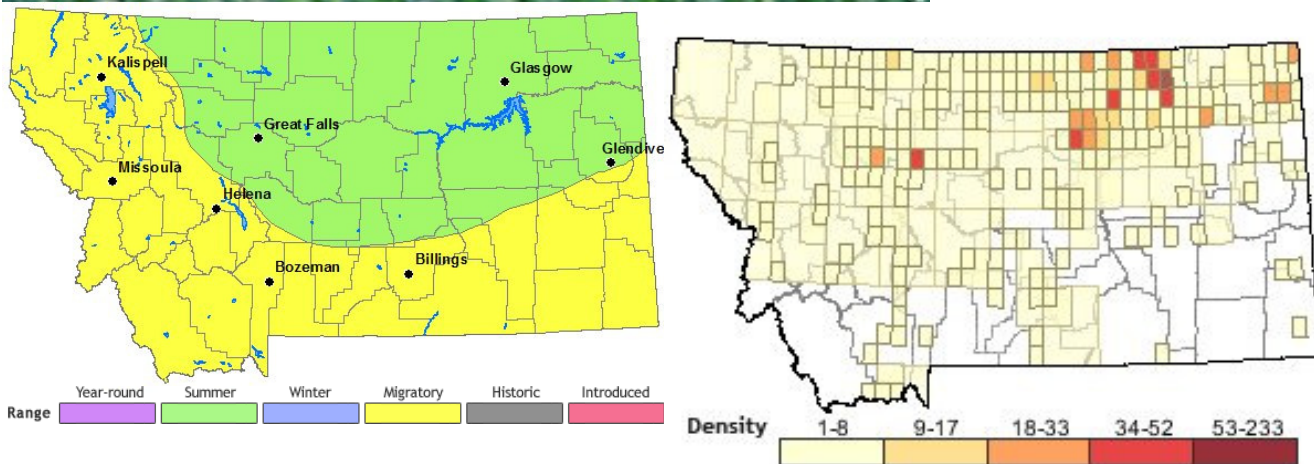
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# Marbled Godwit - *Limosa fedoa*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 2120

## General Description

The Marbled Godwit is a large, long-legged shorebird with very long, slightly upturned bicolored bill and bright cinnamon underwings and remiges. Overall length 42 to 48 cm with bill 8 to 13 cm; mass 285 to 454 g. In breeding plumage generally tawny buff in coloration (looks darker brown above and lighter buff below from a distance); upperparts speckled and barred with dark brown and black; underparts tawny with fine dark streaks on neck and upper breast and black barring on sides, flanks and belly; bill bright pink to orange on basal half; legs long and gray or blue-gray. Does not show well-marked seasonal plumage change, and nonbreeding plumage is similar to breeding plumage except underparts paler tawny and essentially unbarred, and base of bill paler and more extensively pink. Sexes are alike in appearance throughout year, but female is larger than male with a noticeably longer bill (Gratto-Trevor 2000).

## Habitat

Breeds in short, sparsely to moderately vegetated landscapes that include native grassland and wetlands. Individuals in North Dakota preferred ephemeral ponds (normally dry by 1 May), as well as temporary ponds and alkali wetland. Semi permanent ponds often used as well. Upland habitat during breeding season primarily idle grassland and pastures; tilled land avoided, but hay fields used in proportion to availability. During migration will flock around variety of wetland types (Gratto-Trevor 2000).



## Marsh Wren - *Cistothorus palustris*

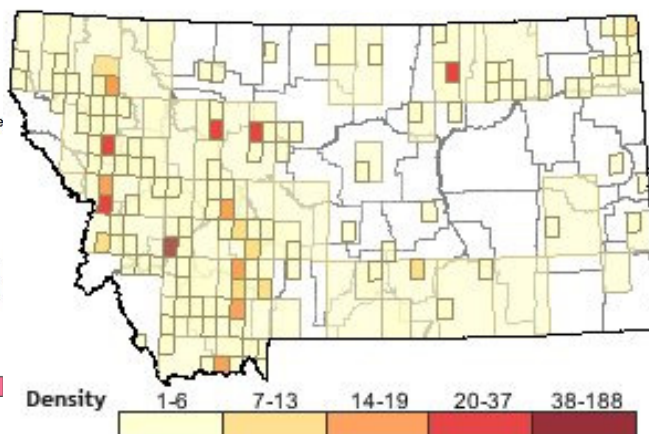


**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



Range    Year-round    Summer    Winter    Migratory    Historic    Introduced



Density    1-6    7-13    14-19    20-37    38-188

**Number of Observations:** 1180

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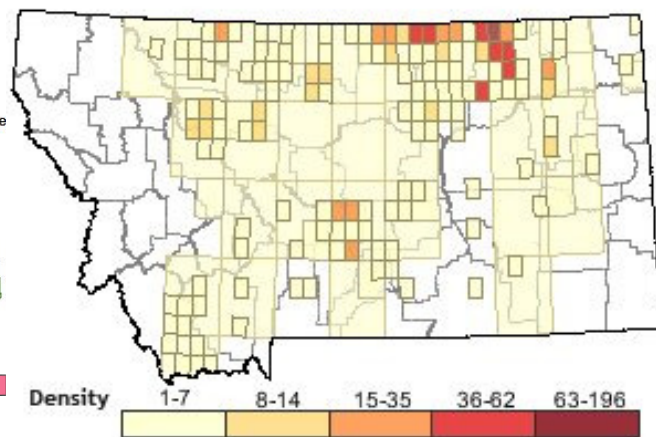
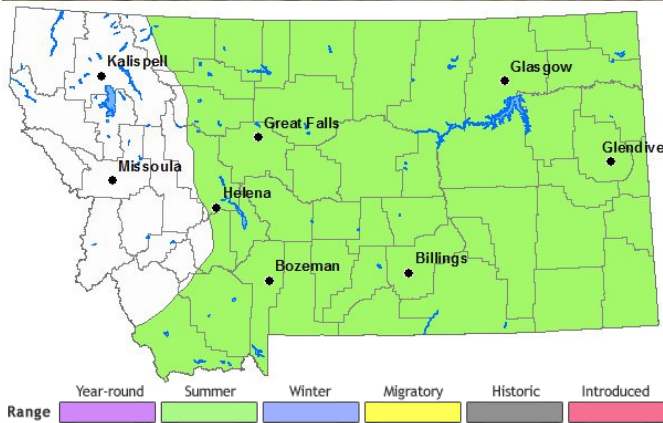
# McCown's Longspur - *Rhynchophanes mccownii*



## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S3B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



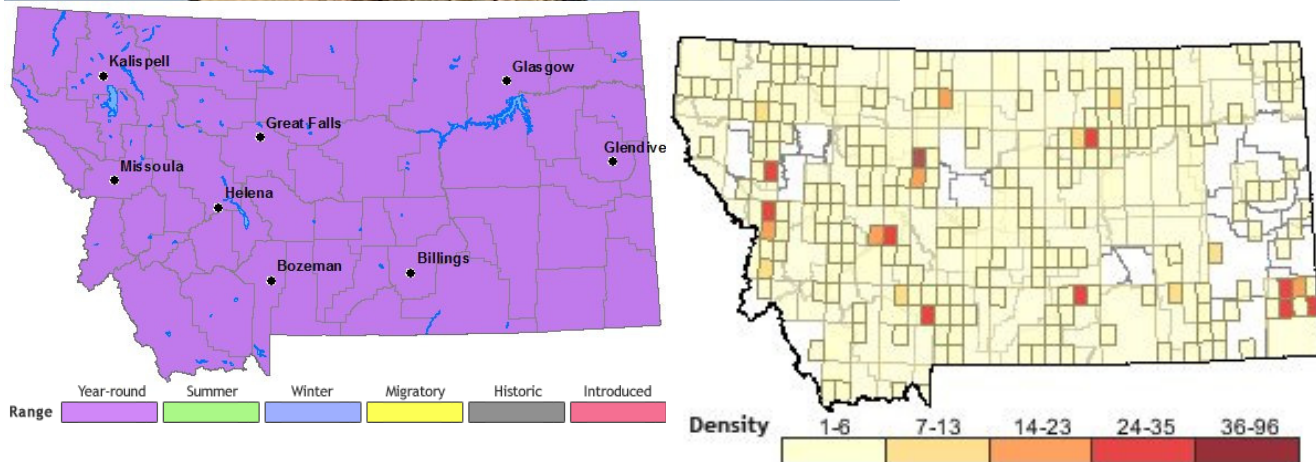
**Number of Observations:** 2058

# Merlin - *Falco columbarius*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1364

## General Description

Males are blue-gray to dark blue above and pale rufous to buff-colored below, with dark streaking or barring. Females are brown above and cream to rufous below with darker streaking. The tail is barred dark with gray to white and exhibits a dark sub-terminal band. The eye is dark brown, and feet are yellow. Juveniles of both sexes resemble females, but are sometimes darker. Merlins are from 10 to 12 inches in length, and have wingspans of 19 to 24 inches. Females are slightly larger than males. A small falcon with pointed wings, a strongly barred tail, a hooked bill, and heavy streaking below; upperparts are gray-blue in males, dark brown in females; overall, plumage is much darker in the Pacific Northwest than in central Canada and the Midwest; average length 31 cm, wingspan 64 cm.

## Habitat

Breeding pairs in eastern Montana usually use sparse conifer stands adjacent to prairie habitats, but sometimes use shelterbelts and river bottom forests. In western Montana, they use open stands of conifers and river bottom forests. Merlins sometimes nest in urban areas. In the Bozeman area, found in the Gallatin Valley, not far from wooded areas (Skaar 1969).

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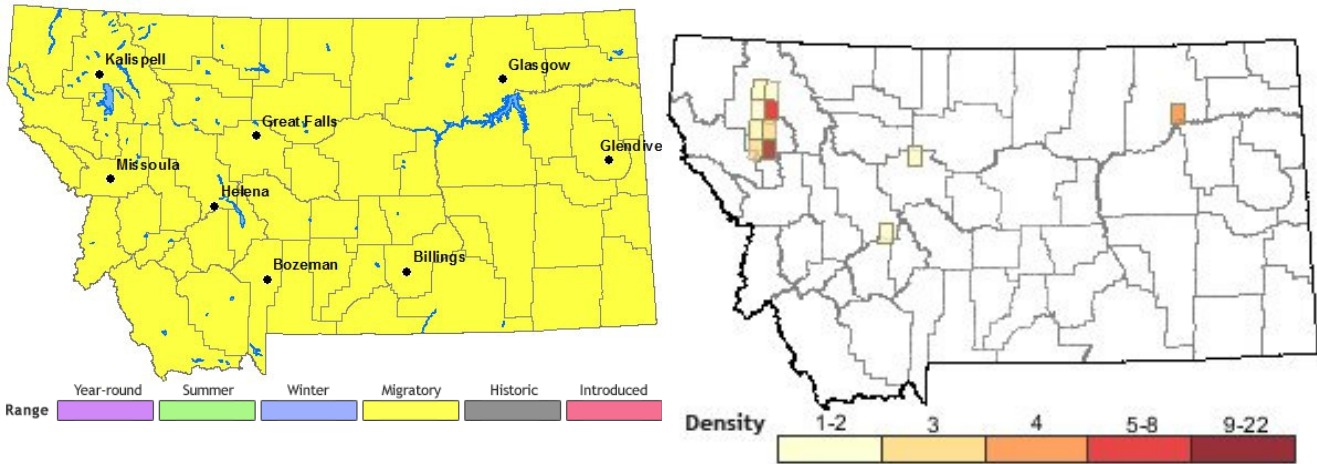


Mew Gull - *Larus canus*



Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: S4M

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



Number of Observations: 44

# Mississippi Kite - *Ictinia mississippiensis*



**Accidental Species**

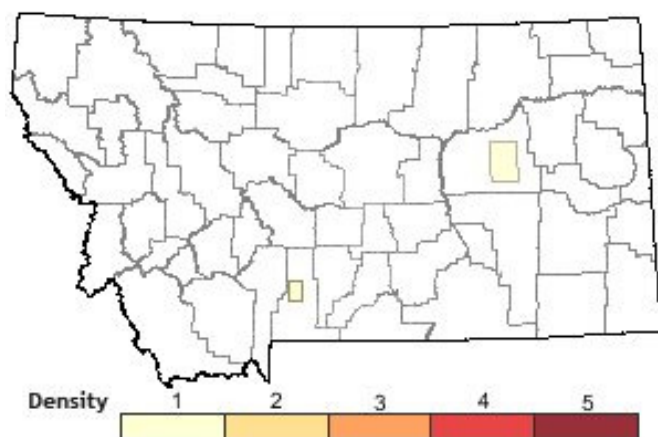
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2

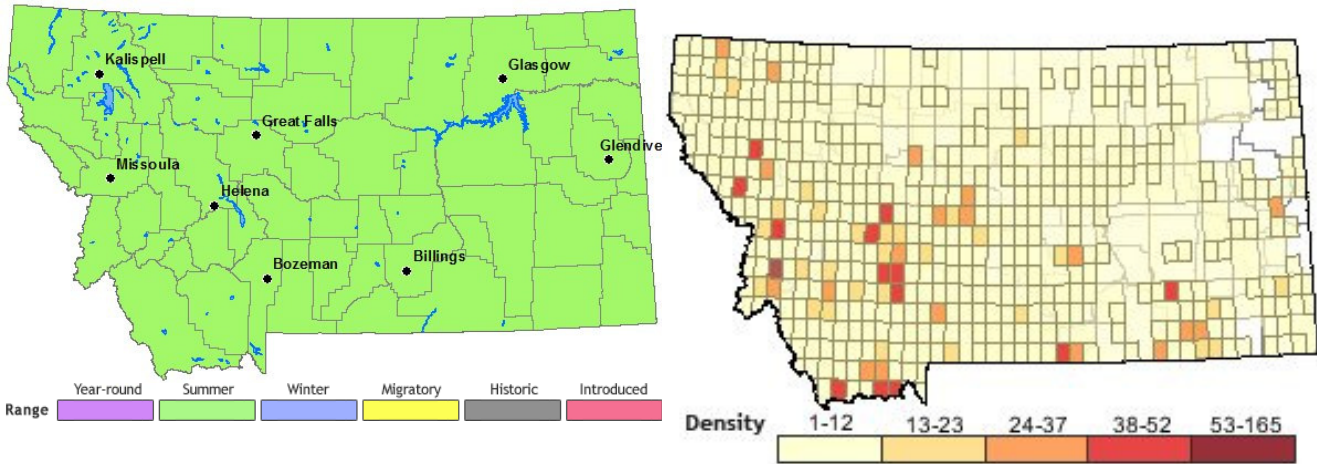
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Mountain Bluebird - *Sialia currucoides*



Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: S5B

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



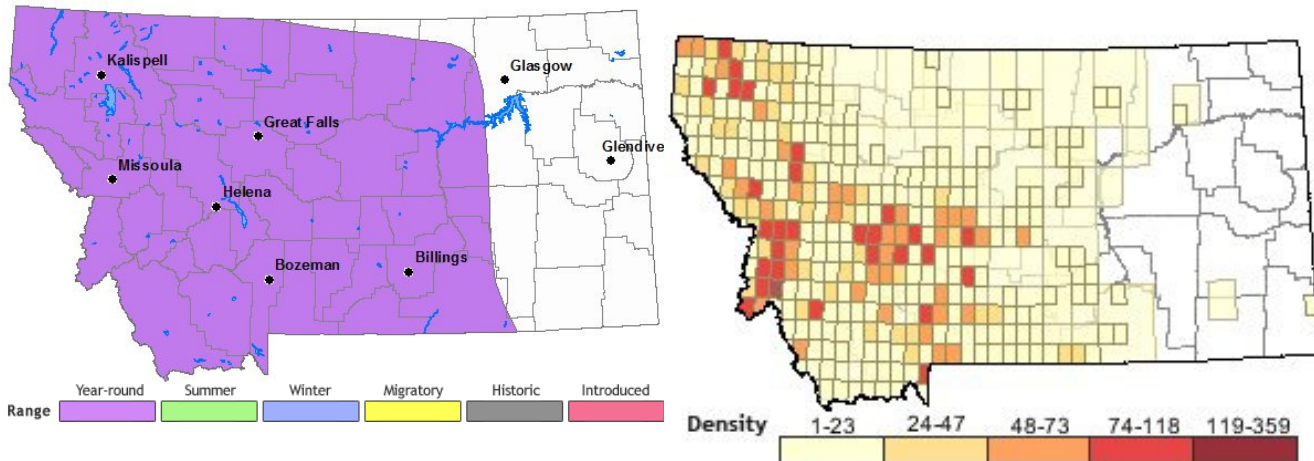
Number of Observations: 5396

# Mountain Chickadee - *Poecile gambeli*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 14776

## General Description

The Mountain Chickadee is a small songbird. Average total length for the male is 128.4 mm and 122.8mm for females. Top of head (to just below eye) is black, forming a black "cap" on head; forehead and superciliary stripe white (distinguishing it from other North American chickadees); chin and throat black, forming a black "bib"; cheeks whitish; back, wings, and tail grayish, washed with olive to tan; breast and belly grayish white, black bill (McCallum, Grundel and Dahlsten 1999).

## Habitat

Year-round resident of montane coniferous forests of west North America, primarily in areas dominated by pine, spruce-fir and pinon juniper. Occurs in mixed coniferous-deciduous forests (McCallum, Grundel and Dahlsten 1999).



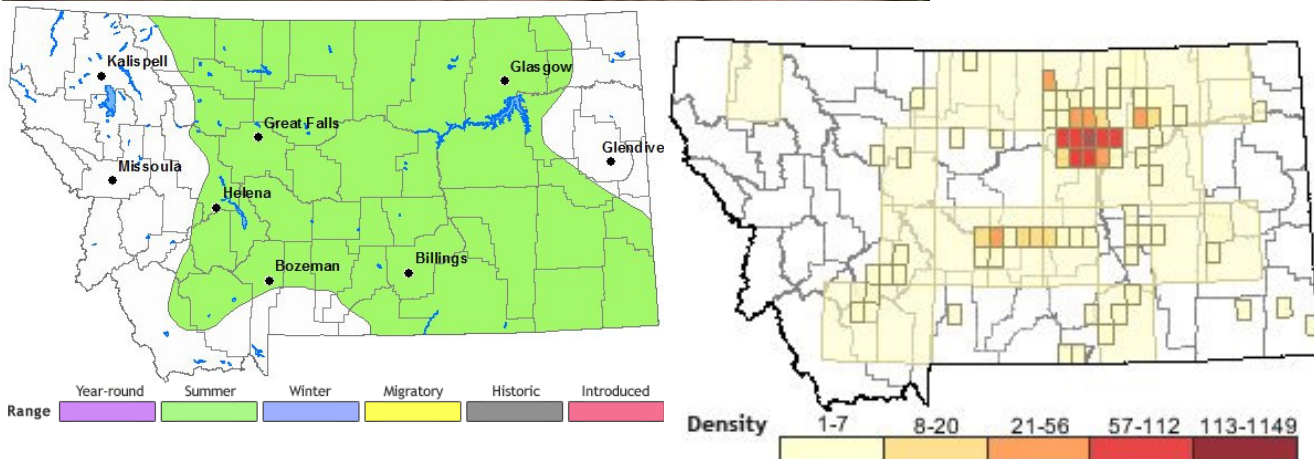
# Mountain Plover - *Charadrius montanus*



## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G3  
**State Rank:** S2B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 3760

## General Description

The upperparts of the Mountain Plover are generally uniformly brown. This color extends along the sides of the neck and onto the chest. The breast band present in many other plovers is absent in this species; the forehead, throat, and breast are white, while the underwings are bright white (Knopf 1996). The dorsal tip of the tail has a broad, black band, or patch, and the outer dorsal surface of the wings is also black (Knopf 1996, Sibley 2000). This plover is fairly large, 21.0 to 23.5 cm in length and weighing from 90 to 110 grams (Knopf 1996). During breeding, a distinctive black line, or loreal stripe, is evident from the bill to the eye. Also at this time, the forecrown will be darkly mottled to black (Knopf 1996). An additional field mark identifying this species is a thin white line on the black-colored wing tip (thin white line in primaries) evident in flight (Knopf 1996). The bill of the Mountain Plover is black; the iris auburn; the legs are a dull, light brown-yellow; the feet are dark brown; and the claws are black (Knopf 1996).

## Habitat

Habitat use in Montana appears similar to other areas within the breeding range; use of prairie dog colonies and other shortgrass prairie sites are confirmed as preferred breeding habitat. Records indicate the species utilizes towns of both White-tailed (*Cynomys leucurus*) and Black-tailed Prairie Dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) (Lenard et al. 2003). These towns provide greater horizontal visibility, a higher percentage of bare ground, more burrows for refugia, and higher diversity of forbs than adjacent areas (Olsen 1985). Mountain Plovers will use towns as small as 3 ha (Knowles et al. 1982), but the average on one study was 57.5 ha (Knowles and Knowles 1984) and ranged from 6 to 50 ha in another (Olson-Edge and Edge 1987).

Primary habitat use in Montana during the breeding season includes heavily grazed, shortgrass prairie sites. Habitat in Phillips and Blaine counties, the area containing the largest known populations of Mountain Plover in the state, is dominated by the native plant species *Bouteloua gracilis* and *Koeleria cristata*. This area also contains *Stipa comata*, *Agropyron smithii*, *Carex* spp., *Artemisia frigida*, *Opuntia polyacantha*, and *Gutierrezia sarothrae* (FaunaWest 1991).

Knowles (1993) determined in the northeastern portion of the state, Mountain Plover also selected sites associated with habitat dominated by *Atriplex gardneri* and *Eriogonum multiceps*, while use in the central and southwestern areas of the state was associated with *Bouteloua gracilis* and *Stipa comata*. Strong preference was also given to sites with slopes less than 5% and grass height of less than 6 cm (3 inches) (Knowles, Maj, and Hinckley 1995). Knowles (1993) indicates that sites selected within these habitat types were restricted to areas intensively grazed by prairie dogs, sheep, and/or cattle, especially those of the *Stipa comata* and *Bouteloua gracilis* habitat type (Knowles and Knowles 1997).

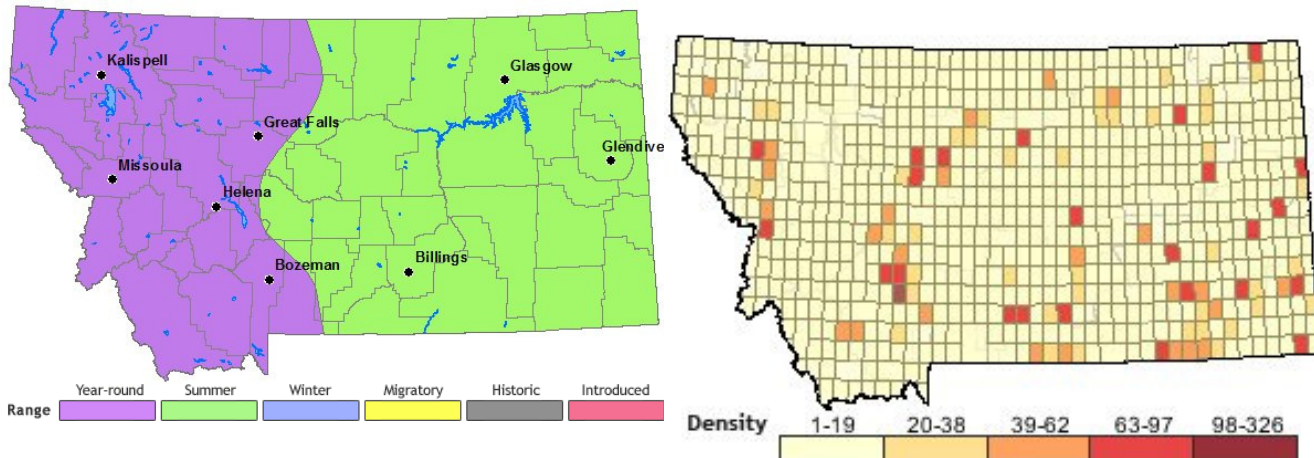
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# Mourning Dove - *Zenaida macroura*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 11789

## General Description

Streamlined, mid-sized columbid with small head and long, pointed tail. Males: 26.5 to 34 cm. Female: 22.5 to 31 cm. Color grayish blue or grayish brown above, buffy below. Black spots on wing coverts and behind eye. Wings and tail feathers gray except for black-bordered white tips on tail. Delicate, black bill; dull red legs and feet. Eyes dark brown bordered by bluish skin. Adult male slightly more colorful than female. Male head with bluish crown and nape, female with brownish (Mirarchi and Baskett 1994).

## Habitat

Species has tremendous adaptability. Generally shuns deep woods or extensive forest and selects more open woodlands and edges between forest and prairie biomes for nesting. Human alteration of original vegetations is generally beneficial for this species, with creation of opening in extensive forest and plowing of grasslands for cereal-grain production. Additional habitat created with planting of trees and shrubs in cities, towns, and suburbs (Mirarchi and Baskett 1994).

# Mourning Warbler - *Geothlypis philadelphia*



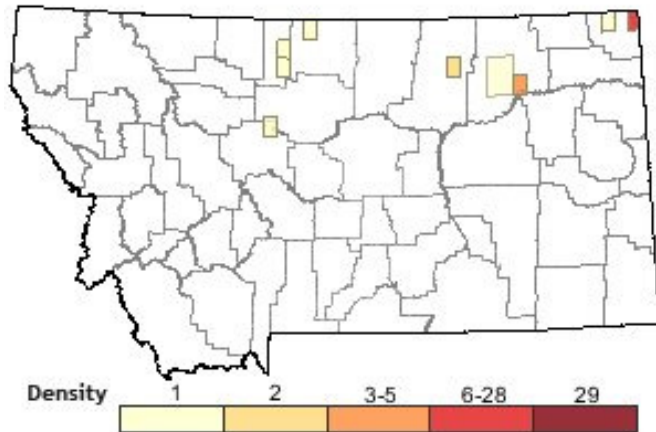
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 41

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## Mute Swan - *Cygnus olor*



**Exotic Species (not native to Montana)**

**Global Rank:** G5

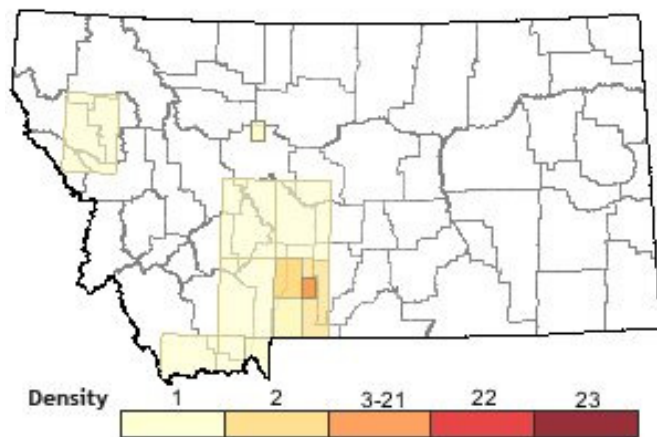
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 34

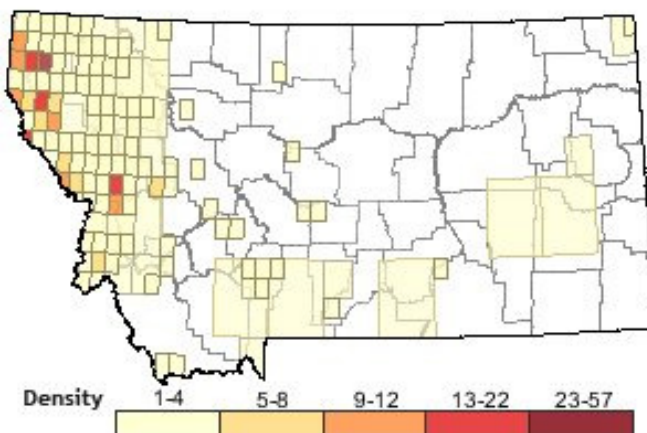
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# Nashville Warbler - *Oreothlypis ruficapilla*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 651

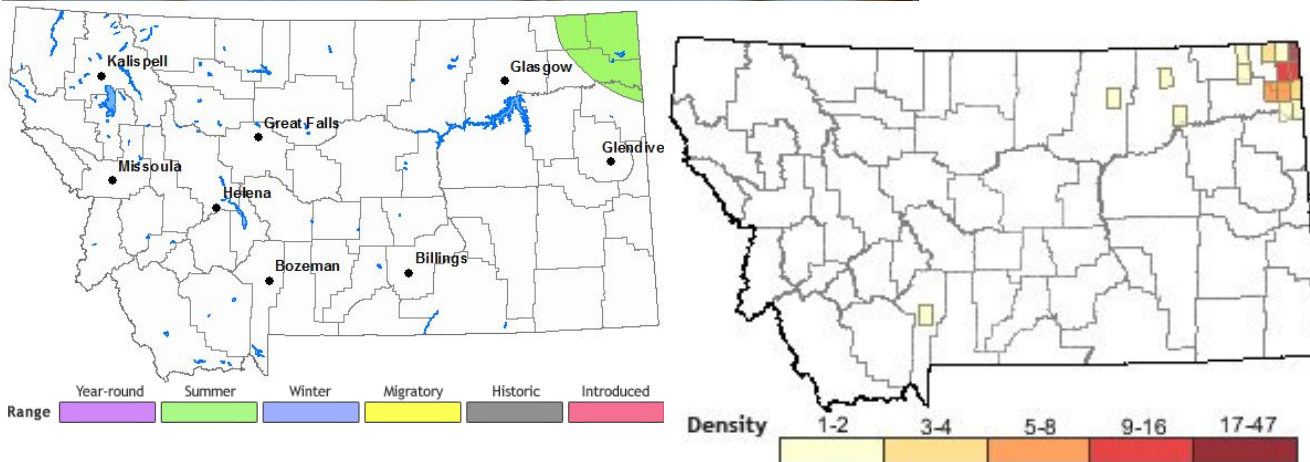
# Nelson's Sparrow - *Ammodramus nelsoni*



## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 128

## General Description

The Nelson's Sparrow is a small sparrow averaging about 5 inches in length. Adults of both sexes are similar in appearance with males larger on average than females. The eyebrow and malar stripe are an obvious orange-buffy color, sharply defined. The ear coverts are gray and the crown is gray striped with brown borders streaked with black. The upperparts are a rich olive-brown and the back is dark with distinct white streaks. The tail is brown and sharply tapered. The breast, flanks and sides are buffy-orange and the abdomen is white. The flanks are faintly streaked and the central breast is unstreaked. The juvenile is similar to the adult in appearance except the crown and ear coverts are brownish rather than gray (Greenlaw and Rising 1994).

## Habitat

There is very little information about the habitat for this species in Montana, however it is assumed that the habitat is similar to that used in other portions of the species' range. This species prefers freshwater wetlands with dense, emergent vegetation or damp areas with dense grasses (Bownan 1904, Murray 1969, Stewart 1975, Krapu and Green 1978, Knapton 1979, Williams and Zimmer 1992, Berkey et al. 1993). In North Dakota, Nelson's Sparrows were common in prairie cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*) stands, occurred at the edges of common reed (*Phragmites australis*) stands, and nested in sprangletop (Murray 1969). In northeastern North Dakota, they nested in thin,

sparse grass on a wet alkali flat (Rolfe 1899, Hill 1968).

Nests usually are built in stands of grasses with litter that is persistent from year to year (Greenlaw and Rising 1994). Nests are built on or slightly above the ground in damp areas among emergent vegetation (Murray 1969, Stewart 1975). In North Dakota, Nelson's Sparrows are more abundant in dry years than in wet years (Stewart 1975). In dry years, they nest in the shallow-marsh and deep-marsh zones of wetlands. In wet years, they nest in cordgrass (*Spartina* spp.) within wet-meadow zones.

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## Northern Bobwhite - *Colinus virginianus*



**Exotic Species (not native to Montana)**

**Global Rank:** G5

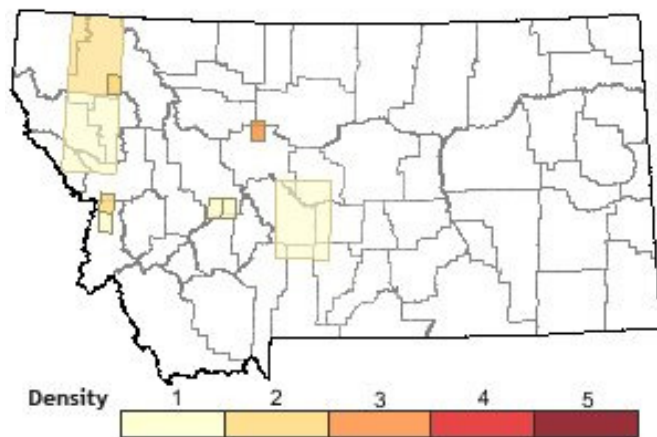
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 14

### General Description

Small rounded body with short neck and tail. Reddish plumage with gray and black highlights. Head white with dark crest and stripe below and behind eye.

# Northern Cardinal - *Cardinalis cardinalis*



**Accidental Species**

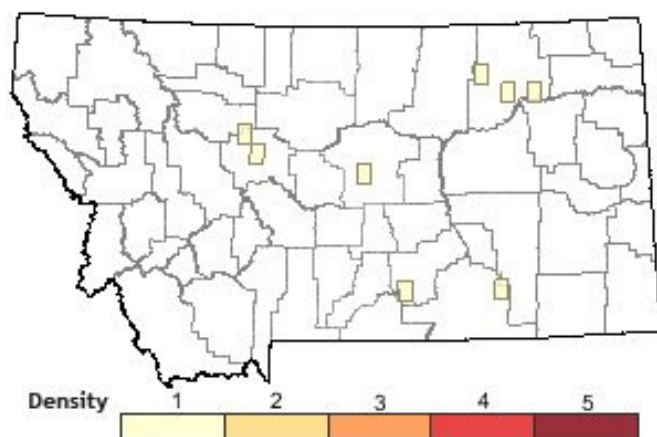
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 8

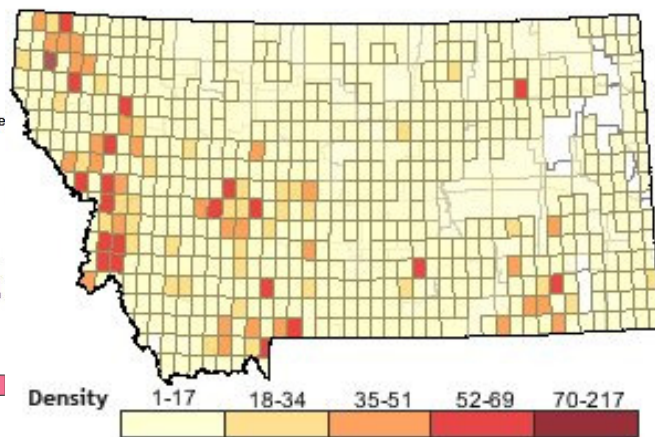
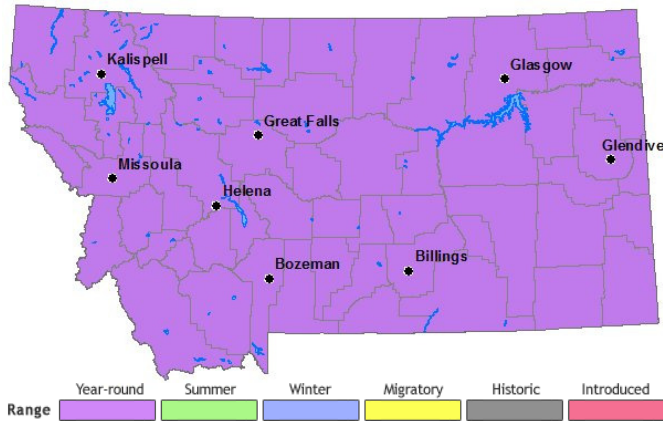
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# Northern Flicker - *Colaptes auratus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 9787

## General Description

Medium-sized woodpecker; males and females 28 to 31 cm. Size and plumage vary with subspecies. Generally grayish brown with irregular transverse dark-brown bars above (making bird cryptic on ground), off-white with numerous 2 to 5 mm black spots below with black crescent mark on upper breast. Ventral surface of wing and tail and dorsal surface of shafts of flight feathers bright salmon or yellow, depending on subspecies. White rump-patch conspicuous in flight. Sexually dimorphic: black or red malar stripe usually present only in male (Moore 1995). See Kaufman (1991) for detailed information on identification of flickers.

## Habitat

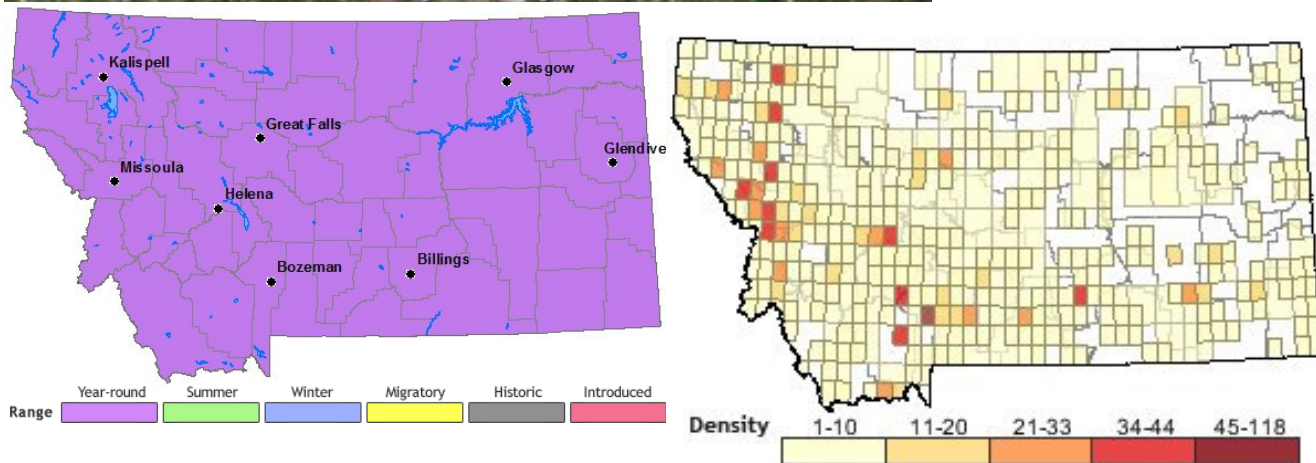
A common, primarily ground-foraging woodpecker that occurs in most wooded regions of North America. Prefers forest edge and open woodlands. Yellow-shafted Flickers reported nesting in most tree species in the wide range of woodlands it inhabits. Red-shafted Flickers are particularly common in quaking aspen stands and cottonwoods in riparian woodlands and in burned woodlands (Moore 1995).

## Northern Flicker (Red-shafted) - *Colaptes auratus cafer*



**Global Rank:** G5T5  
**State Rank:** SNRB

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3177

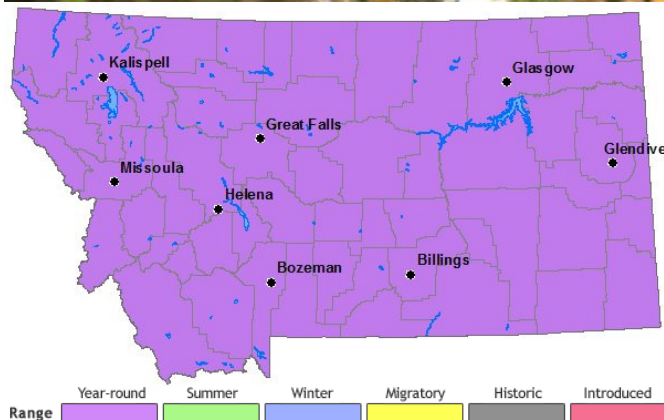


# Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted) - *Colaptes auratus auratus*

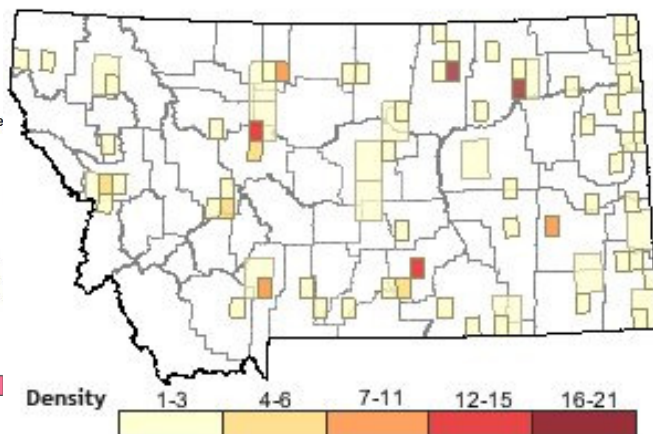


**Global Rank:** G5T5  
**State Rank:** SNRB

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



Range    Year-round    Summer    Winter    Migratory    Historic    Introduced



Density    1-3    4-6    7-11    12-15    16-21

**Number of Observations:** 239

# Northern Goshawk - *Accipiter gentilis*



## Species of Concern

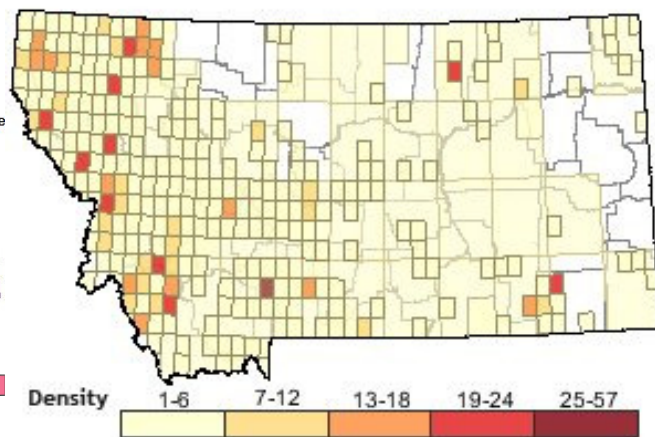
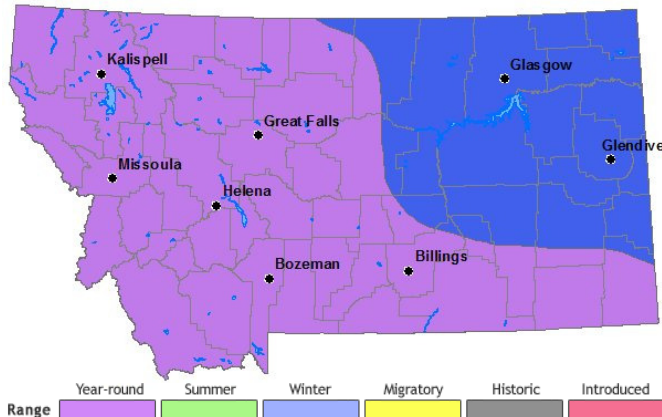
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 1877

## General Description

The Northern Goshawk is a fairly large hawk with a long tail having a broad, dark sub-terminal band and three to four narrower dark bands, rounded wing tips, and a conspicuous pale eyebrow. The sexes are similar with adults having a dark crown, blue-gray back, white underparts with fine, dense gray barring and conspicuous white undertail coverts. The eyes of adults are deep ruby-red and the feet are yellow. Immature Northern Goshawks are brown above, buffy below, with dense, blurry streaking. The undertail coverts are dark-streaked and the tail has wavy dark bands bordered with white and a thin white tip. The eyes of immature Northern Goshawks are yellowish, deepening in color to red as they mature. The total length is 53 to 66 cm, with females averaging larger than males (Squires and Reynolds 1997).

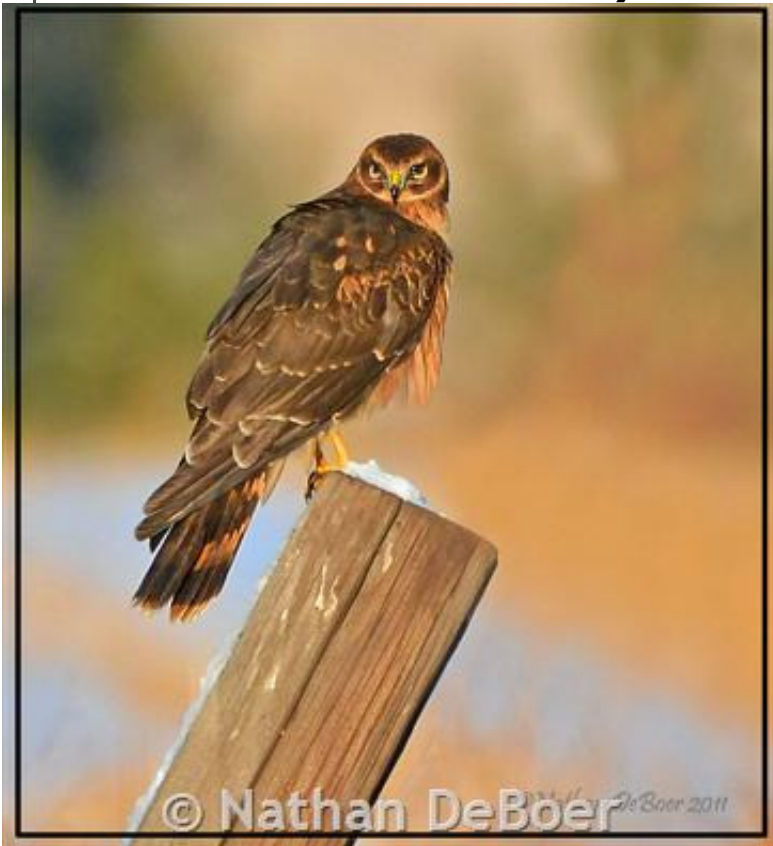
## Habitat

Goshawks nest in a variety of forest types in Montana, including Douglas fir and western larch west of the Continental Divide, lodgepole pine in Beaverhead County, and ponderosa pine in Powder River and Carter counties. They prefer mature and old-growth forests with a preponderance of large trees, a dense canopy, and a relatively open understory (Hayward and Escano 1989, Squires and Reynolds 1997, Clough 2000). An exception to this generality is in Beaverhead County, where nests commonly occur in lodgepole pine stands with an average tree

diameter of only 13 cm, although the birds usually place their nests in larger trees within these stands (J. Kirkley, pers. comm.). The nest is a bulky platform of sticks placed near the main trunk of a large tree from 6-20 m off the ground, usually in the lower part of the canopy. Forest stands where Northern Goshawks nest in Montana tend to be mature large-tract conifer forests with a high canopy cover (69%), relatively steep slope (21%); and little to sparse undergrowth (Kirkley 1996). Hayward and Escano (1989) examined nest-site characteristics at 17 territories in western Montana and northern Idaho in 1983. The birds nested preferentially in mature and old-growth stands of conifers that had a closed canopy (75-85% canopy cover) and a large forest opening within 1 km of the nest. Nest heights ranged from 7-17 m, and most nests were placed next to the main trunk in the lower one-third of the canopy. All Northern Goshawk nest trees reported by Kirkley (1996) were either lodgepole pine or Douglas-fir with an average DBH (diameter at breast height) of 33.6 cm and average height of 21.9 meters. In another study conducted in Montana, Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine and grand fir were the trees selected most often for nest building (State of Idaho HCA/CS Dev. Team 1995). Nests were constructed an average 10.9 meters above the ground and were usually located near water (232 m) or a clearing (85 m) (Kirkley 1996). Range-wide nest site characteristics are similar. Almost no information is available regarding Northern Goshawk foraging strategies in Montana. It is known they hunt in closed canopy habitats as well as more open landscapes and over 50 species of identified prey indicate they are generalists in terms of prey selection. Little information exists concerning Northern Goshawk non-breeding or wintering habitat in the state. However, in the Bozeman area, birds coming into the valley are found in forested or thickety areas. Multiple observations of wintering Northern Goshawks are documented in the north-central and northeastern areas of Montana (Lenard et al. 2003), possibly indicating movement toward areas of higher prey availability.

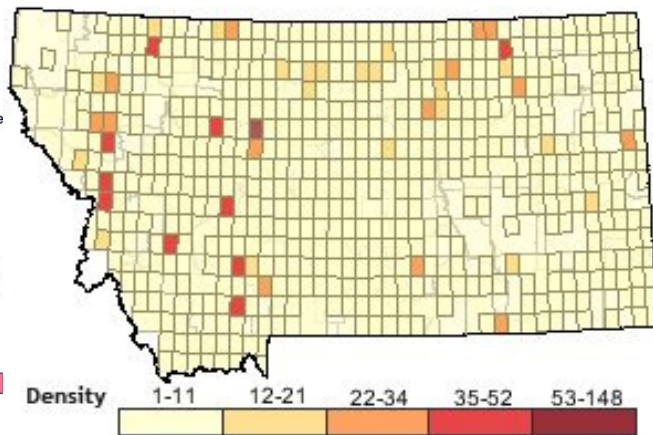
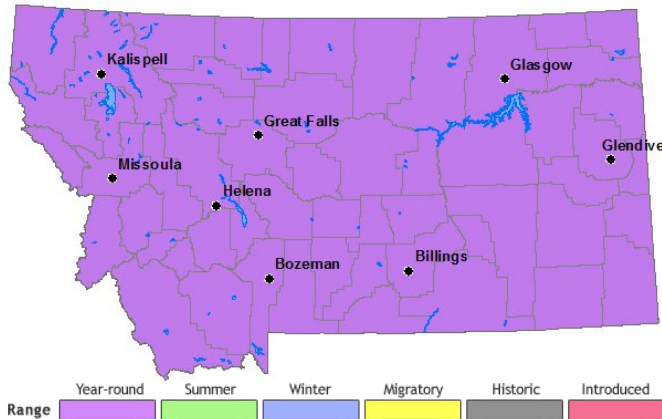
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# Northern Harrier - *Circus cyaneus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 4428

## General Description

Males are pale gray above and white below, with black wing tips. Females are dark brown above and buffy below, with some streaking on the underparts. The immature Northern Harrier appears similar in color to the adult female, but has a cinnamon-colored breast and darker brown back and wings (Bent 1937, Brown and Amadon 1968). All show a distinctive white rump patch at the base of the tail, and have long, narrow wings and tail. Northern Harriers range in length from 17 to 23 inches, and have a wingspan of 38 to 48 inches. Females are larger than males.

**MORPHOLOGY AND PLUMAGES:** Members of the genus *Circus* are slim, medium-sized hawks with long, broad wings and long legs and tails. A characteristic facial ruff gives them an owl-like appearance (Brown and Amadon 1968). The tail is barred. The mean weight of adult female is 529.9 grams (Hamerstrom 1986), total length varies from 48 to 61 centimeters and wingspread ranges from 110 to 137 centimeters (Bildstein 1988). The mean weight of the adult male is 367.4 grams (Hamerstrom 1986), total length ranges from 44 to 51 centimeters, and wingspread varies from 102 to 114 centimeters (Bildstein 1988). Males up to three to four years of age have brown markings dorsally (Bildstein 1988). Immature plumage is retained throughout the first winter into the following spring and, in some cases, summer. During spring and early summer it is difficult to discriminate between immatures and adult females (Bildstein 1988).

**VOCALIZATIONS:** The call given by adult and immature Northern Harriers when they are alarmed or excited has



been described as a rapid chattering, "*ke-ke-ke*", or "*chek-ek-chek-ek*" (Brown and Amadon 1968). The begging call has been described as a wailing squeal, given by the female to the male, and juveniles to adults when begging for food. This call is also used during courtship by the male and female (Bent 1937, Brown and Amadon 1968, Balfour and MacDonald 1970, Watson 1977). When incubating the female may utter a "*quip quip quip*" (Brown and Amadon 1968).

EGGS: Eggs are pale blue at laying and turn white in a few days; brown markings may occur (Hamerstrom 1969).

## Habitat

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Northern Harriers nest on the ground in dense grass, snowberry-rose patches, and hay fields. They hunt in grasslands, especially near wetlands and agricultural areas. Species occurs widely in valleys in open areas, generally not far from water. In late summer, some birds move upward into high mountain meadows (Skaar 1969, Davis 1961).

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# Northern Hawk Owl - *Surnia ulula*

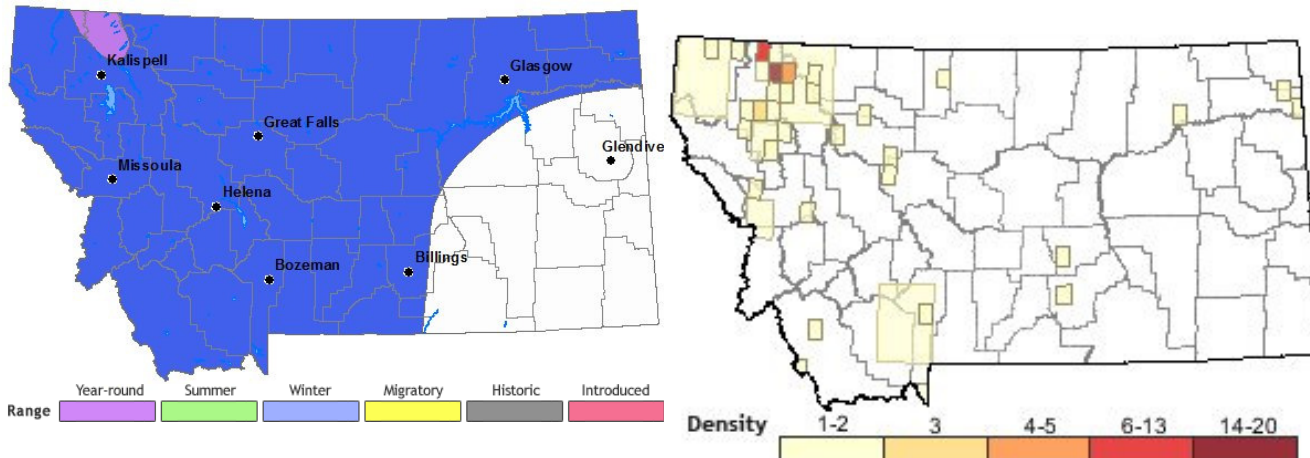


## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 80

## General Description

Appropriately named, the Northern Hawk Owl more closely resembles an *Accipiter* hawk species than an owl, both in morphology and behavior. Dropping from a visible perch on a prominent tree, gliding low over the ground or in high-speed flight, its short-pointed wings and long tail give the appearance of a falcon-like bird (Duncan and Duncan 1998). Following the general reverse sexual size dimorphism found in most owls, the female of this species is larger than the male. Females are generally 37.2 to 44.7 cm in length, while males are approximately 36.0 to 42.4 cm (Duncan and Duncan 1998). Sometimes surpassing males in mass by as much as 17%, females generally weigh 340 grams, while males average approximately 300 grams (Earhart and Johnson 1970, McGillivray 1987). Beneath a fairly flat-topped head and deep v-shaped black and white speckled forehead, the grayish-white facial disc is framed in black. The iris is yellow, the bill is pale yellow to greenish-yellow, and the flesh of the heavily feathered feet is colored a deep slate-gray to black (Duncan and Duncan 1998). The back, wings, and head are brownish-black, spotted and streaked with white, while the white breast and belly are heavily and distinctly barred with brown.

The vocalization of the Northern Hawk Owl is variable and persistent during the breeding season. The display call of the male is a trilling, rolling whistling "ulululululul" lasting up to 14 seconds, while the female's advertising call is shorter and less constant in pitch and rhythm, with a hoarser and shriller quality (Duncan and Duncan 1998). This species is also known to express an alarm or screeching call, a trilling call, a yelping call, a lure call, a soliciting call, a hiss and chitter, and other vocalizations (Duncan and Duncan 1998).

## Habitat

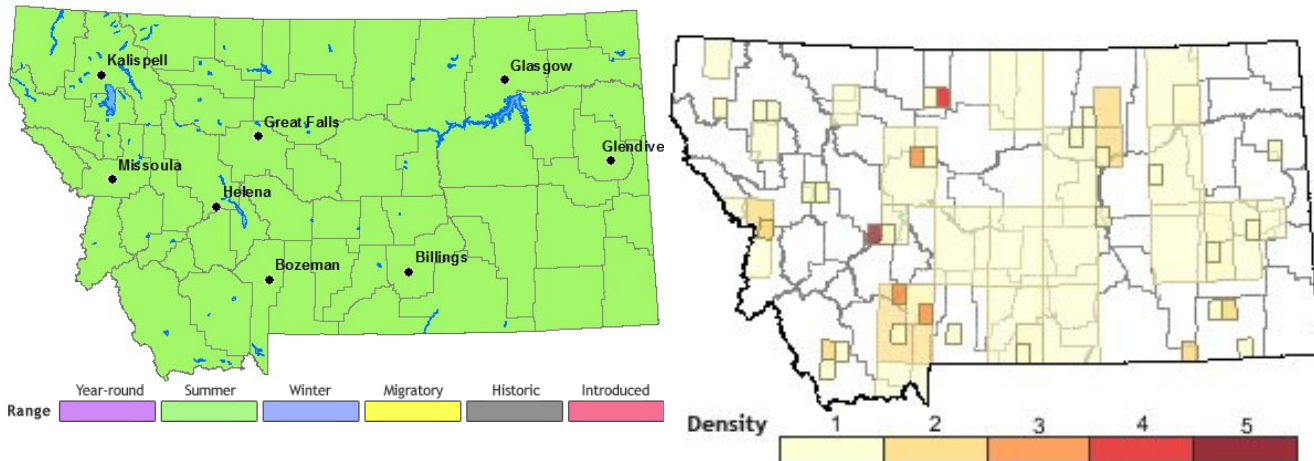
Johnsgard (1986) indicates Northern Hawk Owls prefer post-fire habitat and open muskeg areas, with tall trees or snags for use as hunting perch sites. No other specific information is available on nest site selection in Montana.

# Northern Mockingbird - *Mimus polyglottos*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 82

## General Description

Medium-sized songbird. Males 220 to 255 mm, mean weight 51 g; females 208 to 235 mm, mean weight 47 g. Sexes are not safely separated by size or plumage. Legs and tail long, wings rather short and rounded. Bill moderately long and somewhat decurved. Upperparts gray to gray-brown with black posterior border to wing. Two parallel, narrow white wing bars on proximal half of wing connected to broad, white wing patch, conspicuous in flight. Underparts white to white-gray. Renowned for its complex, mimicking song and for its pugnacious defense of territory, nest, and young (Derrickson and Breitwisch 1992)

## Habitat

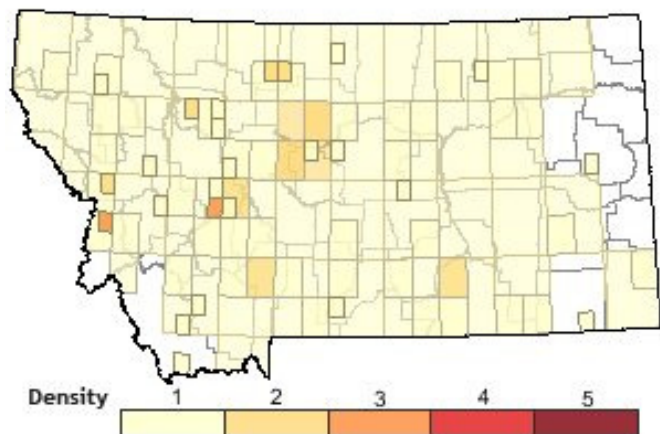
Favors habitats such as park and cultivated lands, second growth at low elevations, and suburbs where it commonly forages on mowed lawns. Absent from the interior of all forested habitat but frequents forest edge. Found in the same habitat year-round (Derrickson and Breitwisch 1992).

# Northern Oriole - *Icterus galbula*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNR

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 128

## General Description

This formerly recognized species has been split into the Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullocki*) and Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). Records shown below were reported prior to the split, but cannot be assigned definitively to either Baltimore Oriole or Bullock's Oriole.

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# Northern Parula - *Setophaga americana*



**Accidental Species**

**Global Rank:** G5

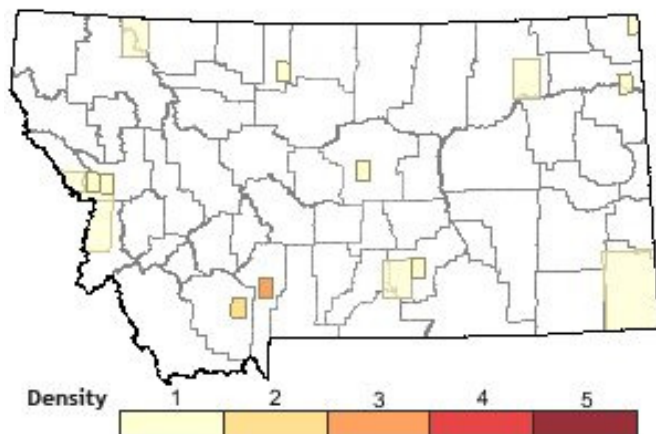
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 17

## General Description

**ADULT MALE:** Head and upperparts mostly grayish blue; patch on center of back greenish yellow; wings and tail grayish blue, the wings showing two prominent white bars and the tail having white spots on the outer feathers near its end; throat and breast mostly yellow, the breast crossed by a band of bluish black bordered with chestnut; belly white; flanks slightly washed with rufous. **ADULT FEMALE:** Similar, but patch on back duller and underparts light yellow with breast band generally lacking.

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# Northern Pintail - *Anas acuta*



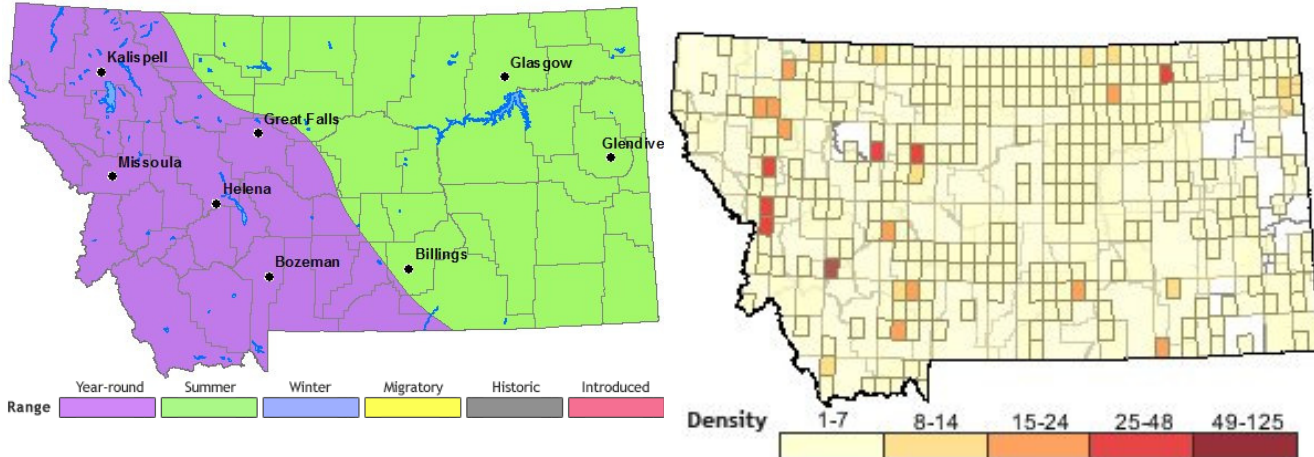
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2035

## General Description

Medium-sized dabbling duck. Length: adult males 57 to 76 cm, females 51 to 63 cm. Both sexes distinguished from other dabblers by slim profile, long narrow neck, and pointed tail. Sexually dimorphic plumage. Definitive Alternate male readily distinguished from other North American ducks by combination of chocolate brown head, white neck and underparts, and very long central rectrices. Female distinguished from other female ducks by slender proportions, pointed tail, mottled dull brown or bronze (rarely with some green) speculum, and mottled to spotted dark gray to black bill (Austin and Miller 1995).

## Habitat

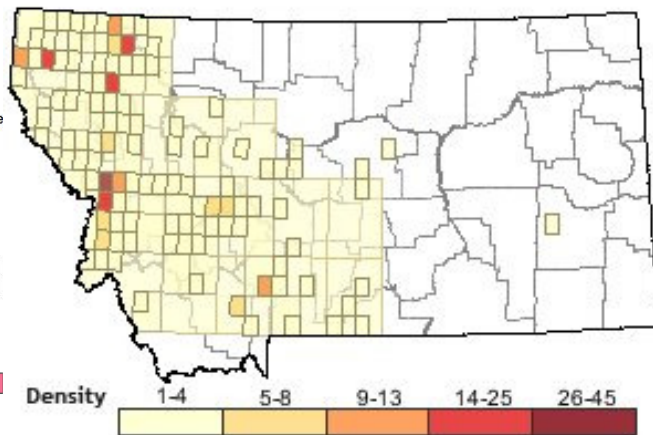
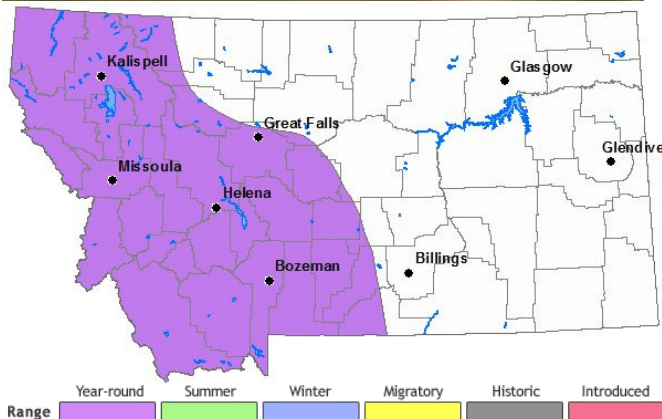
Comments on habitat are found in Holm (1984). Summer birds prefer large lakes in the Bozeman area (Skaar 1969). Breeders favor shallow wetlands interspersed throughout prairie grasslands or arctic tundra. An early fall migrant, the species arrives on wintering areas beginning in August, after wing molt, often forming large roosting and feeding flocks on open, shallow wetlands and flooded agricultural fields (Austin and Miller 1995).

# Northern Pygmy-Owl - *Glaucidium gnoma*



**Global Rank:** G4G5  
**State Rank:** S4

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 557

## General Description

Round-headed, eyes yellow, bill yellow, yellow/green, yellow/black, or yellow/white. Eyebrows distinctive white. Feathers extending from back of eyebrows can be raised, like tufts, when alarmed. True facial disk absent. Head finely spotted. Ventrally, dark mottled head and neck, giving way to white chest, belly, and sides, with vertical brown streaking. Dorsally, dark mottling with conspicuously long tail. Has conspicuous false eyes or eye marks on back of head. **SIZE:** six to seven inches. **WEIGHT:** two or three ounces. **VOICE:** Two songs. One is "Toot, toot, toot", given rapidly six to eight times. Song is similar to that of the Saw-whet Owl and the two are difficult to distinguish. This song is most often heard in fall, winter, and the early part of the breeding season. The second song, "Toot (pause) toot", is the typical breeding season call.

## Habitat

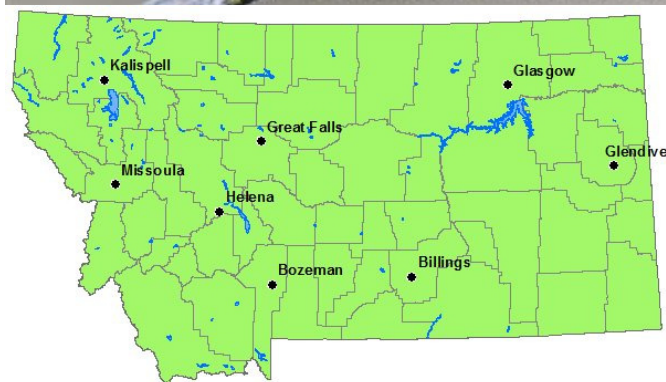
Not well known, most often seen in mixed fir forests, but can be found from river bottoms to timberline.

# Northern Rough-winged Swallow - *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

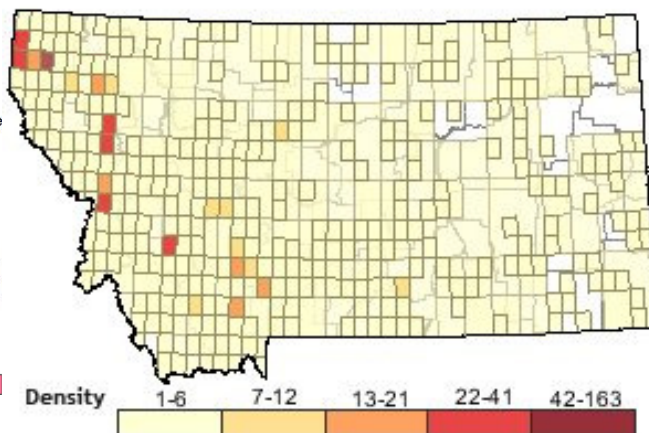


**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



Range    Year-round    Summer    Winter    Migratory    Historic    Introduced



Density    1-6    7-12    13-21    22-41    42-163

**Number of Observations:** 1669

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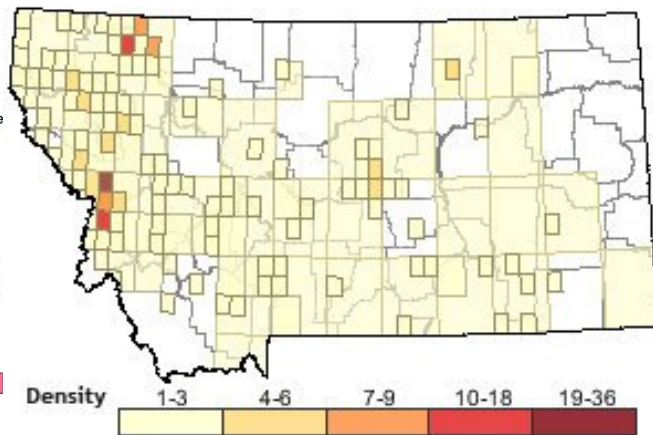
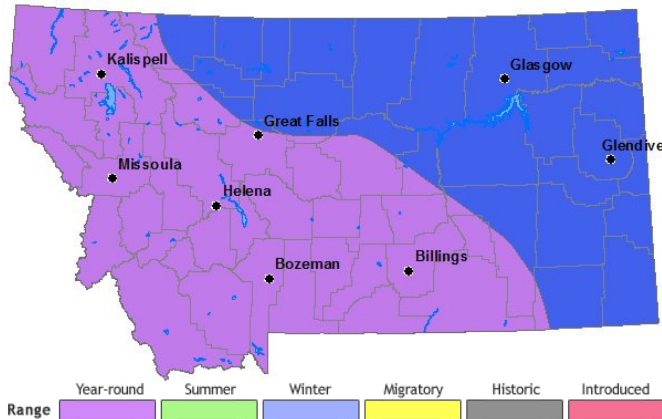


# Northern Saw-whet Owl - *Aegolius acadicus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 430

## General Description

Round-headed, eyes yellow, bill black. Facial disk reddish/brown; forehead has short white vertical streaks. Ventrally reddish/brown streaking extends from neck to belly. Dorsally brown with white spots. Juvenile has dark reddish/brown facial disk and white forehead. Upper chest is reddish/brown grading into dark rust belly and flanks. Juveniles molt into adult-like plumage by early winter. **SIZE:** seven to eight inches. **WEIGHT:** three to four ounces. **VOICE:** A monotonous, "Toot, toot, toot," given rapidly and consistently throughout the night. Similar to one of the Northern Pygmy-Owl's calls.

## Habitat

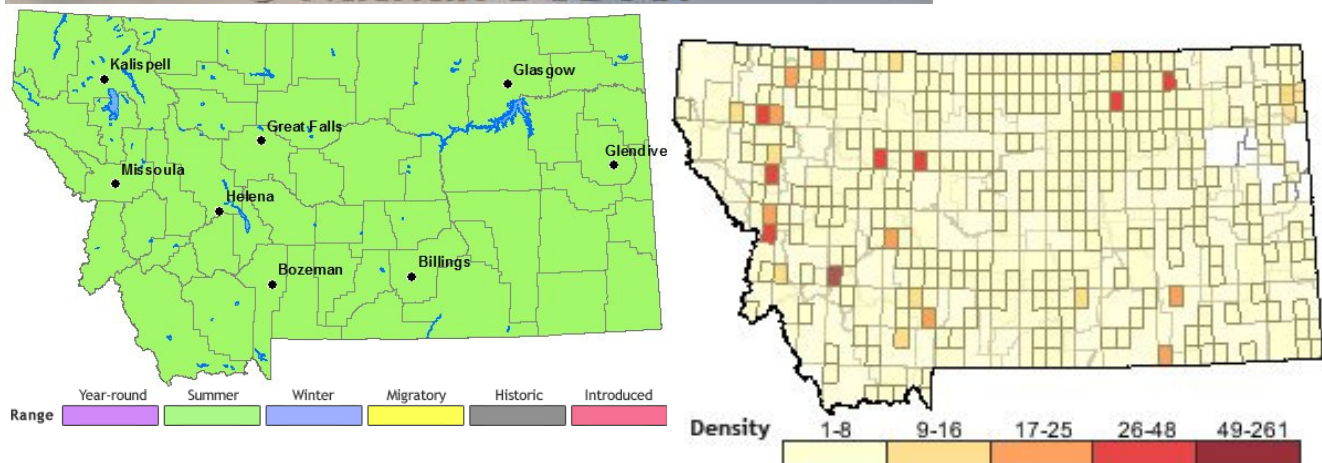
Most common in coniferous forests; however, they can be found in deciduous trees along watercourses.

# Northern Shoveler - *Anas clypeata*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2251

## Habitat

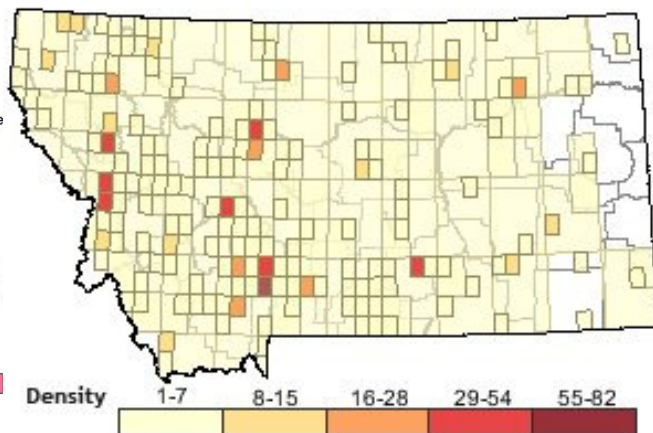
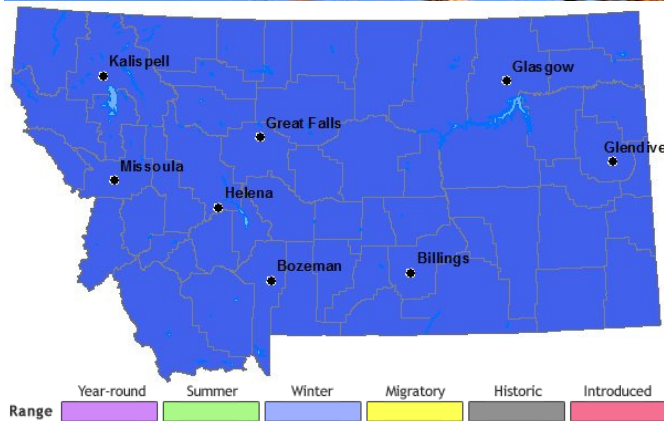
Comments on habitat can be found in Holm 1984. In the Bozeman area, summer birds prefer the marshy borders of lakes and ponds; migrants are more widely distributed (Skaar 1969).

# Northern Shrike - *Lanius excubitor*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5N

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1560

## General Description

Medium-sized, length 23 to 25 cm, wing span about 30 to 35cm, relatively long-tailed appearance. Typically perched atop a tall tree or shrub surveying its world. Adult gray above and white below, with contrasting pattern of black and white on wings and tail, black mask, and white rump. Heavy black bill toothed and hooked at tip. Sexes similar, although female may average slightly duller black in wings and have less pure-gray upperparts, sometimes discernible when mates seen together (Cade and Atkinson 2002).

## Habitat

Nests throughout taiga and taiga-tundra ecotone of Alaska and Canada, where suitable trees or shrubs occur in association with open landscapes and in willow, alder and poplar stands that extend beyond spruce line into tundra zone. Winter range in areas farther south in southern Canada and U.S. Includes coastal wetlands and estuaries, savannas, forest edges, Great Basin shrub deserts and edge with forests, Great Plains and edge with forests and deciduous woodlands, especially where trees and shrubs planted as shelterbelts, and mixed agricultural-suburban-woodland associations of the former eastern deciduous forest region of mid-western and e. U.S. and s. Canada.

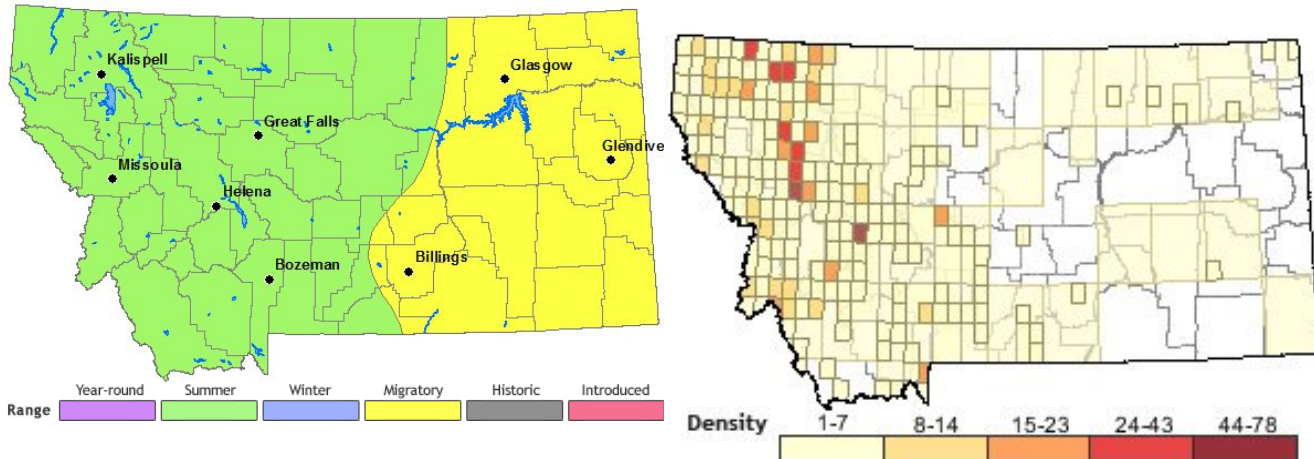


# Northern Waterthrush - *Parkesia noveboracensis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1850

## General Description

Dark brown above, whitish to pale yellowish below and supercilium. Dark streaking on breast. Best distinguished from very similar Louisiana Waterthrush by thinner, more yellowish supercilium and typically spotted throat, drabber leg color. Habitat should be considered when identifying waterthrushes. Song is best indicator of species.

## Habitat

Breeds in cool, dark wooded swamps, thickets of bogs, margins of northern lakes, debris-strewn shores, and willow and alder bordered rivers. Most North American birdwatchers see it only on migration in back yards, city parks, and wet places, as it migrates to and from its wintering grounds in the tropical mangroves of Central and South America (Eaton 1995).

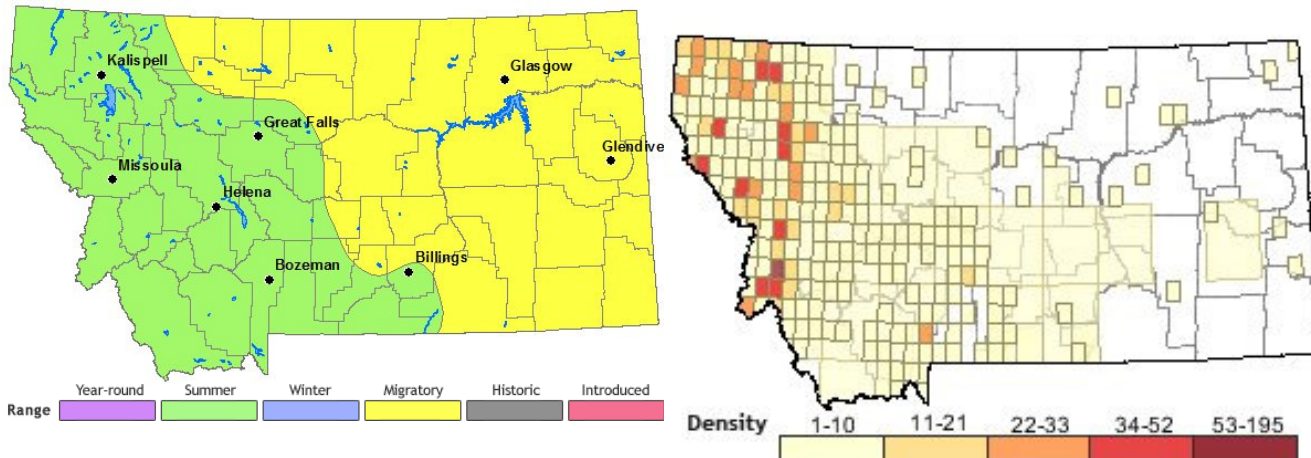


# Olive-sided Flycatcher - *Contopus cooperi*



**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3225

## General Description

The Olive-sided Flycatcher is a rather large (18 to 20 cm) flycatcher, with a large head and a proportionately short tail. Plumage is brownish-olive above (brownier on juveniles) with a dull white to yellowish throat, breast, and belly. Streaked or mottled patches on the sides of the breast are dark and distinct from the lighter center. Sexes are similar, but may be separable in the hand by wing chord length, 96 to 109 mm (females) and 103 to 117 mm (males) (Pyle et al. 1987).

The song is a loud, ringing whistle, rather easily imitated, delivered by the male generally from the top of an upright dead snag or living tree such as balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), spruce (*Picea* spp.), tamarack (*Larix laricina*), or other pointed tree, often the tallest in the area. Most observers use the mnemonic "*quick-three-beers*" (Peterson 1980) to recall the song. The song is often heard as a foreshortened "*free beer*." The call is a trebled "*pip-pip-pip*" (Peterson 1980). Oologist V. Burtch told Bent (1942) that these notes "...seemed to be made mostly by the female in the vicinity of the nest and that all the nests he found were located after hearing these notes."

Head (1903) described another vocalization as being "more like a twitter, and was uttered during excitement, chiefly when the young were learning to fly. It sounded like "*why, why, why*," repeated very rapidly a number of times. Sometimes this note was given as a prelude to the real song..." Bent (1942) also describes a two-syllable song, similar to the Eastern Wood-pewee's (*Contopus sordidulus*) in quality: "The notes may be whistled as '*too-wee*' in ascending pitch, slightly suggesting the [Rufous-sided] towhee's (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) notes."

## Habitat

A species that generally breeds in the montane and boreal forests in the mountains of western North America,

Olive-sided Flycatchers are highly adapted to the dynamics of a landscape frequently altered by fire. They are more often associated with post-fire habitat than any other major habitat type, but may also be found in other forest openings (clear cuts and other disturbed forested habitat), open forests with a low percentage of canopy cover, and forest edges near natural meadows, wetlands, or canyons (Hutto and Young 1999, Altman and Sallabanks 2000). Their affinity for forested edges near water may be a product of a higher presence of flying insects in these areas (Altman and Sallabanks 2000). They are a species common in spruce and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), but are uncommon in mixed-conifer, ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), pine-oak (*Pinus-Quercus*), and cedar-hemlock (*Cupressaceae-Tsuga*) forests, and rarely present in lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) or pinyon-juniper (Hejl et.al. 1995 as cited in Casey 2000).

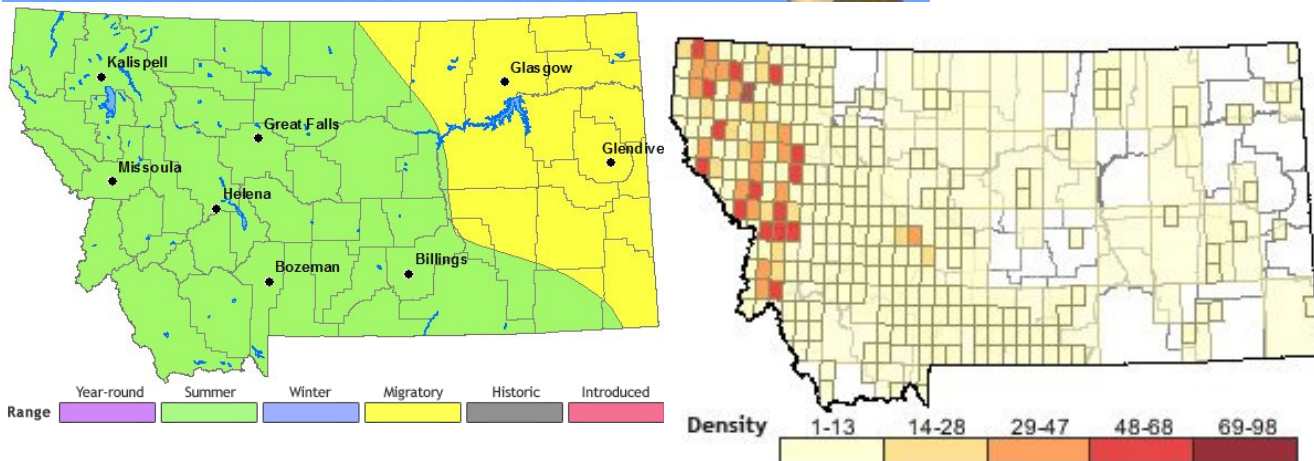
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# Orange-crowned Warbler - *Oreothlypis celata*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 4446

## General Description

Medium-sized warbler, 11 to 14 cm. Upperparts plain dusky olive-green, brighter yellow on rump and upper-tail coverts, grayer on crown and hind-neck. Crown with brown-orange patch, usually concealed. Eyes black, eyelids white or yellow, separated by dusky eye-line. Underparts greenish-yellow, faintly streaked. No wing bars. Bill narrowly wedge-shaped, very acute at tip. Sexes similar in color and pattern, but females tend to be duller with less distinct or absent crown-patch (Soggle, Gilbert, and Van Riper III 1994).

## Habitat

Prefers habitats with shrubs and low vegetation, often in aspen forest or in riparian or chaparral areas which provide cover for its nest (Soggle, Gilbert and Van Riper III 1994).



## Orchard Oriole - *Icterus spurius*



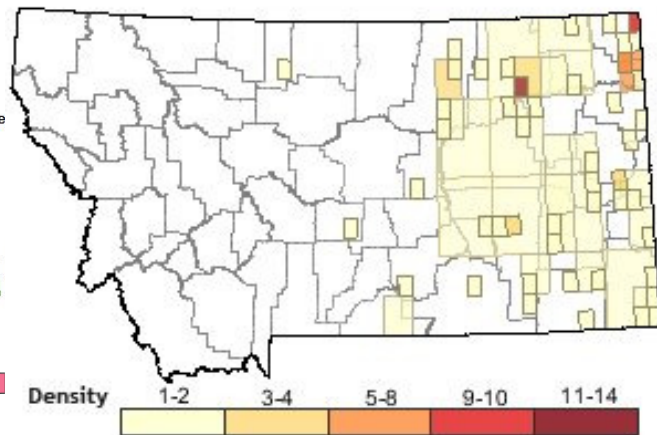
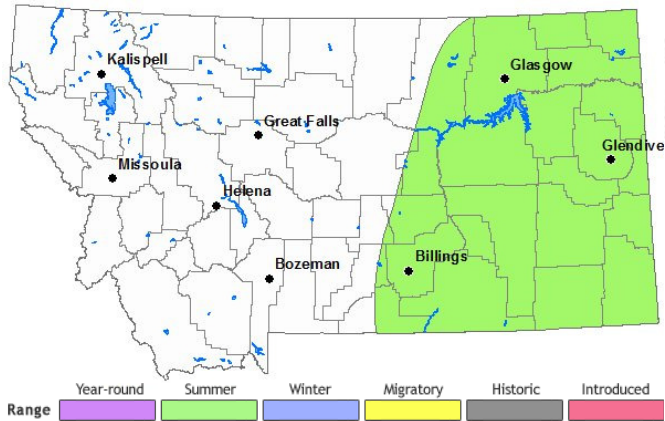
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 135

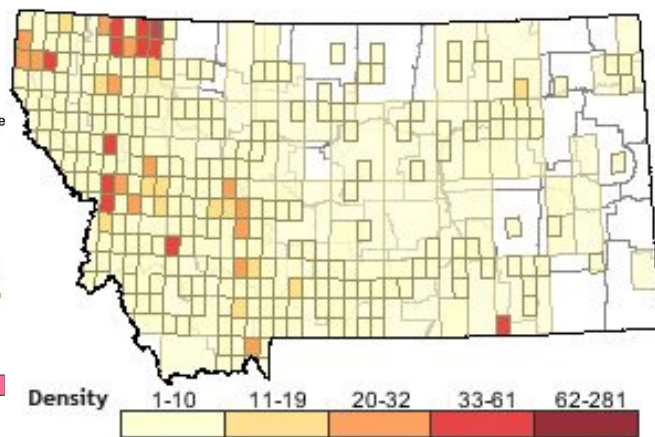
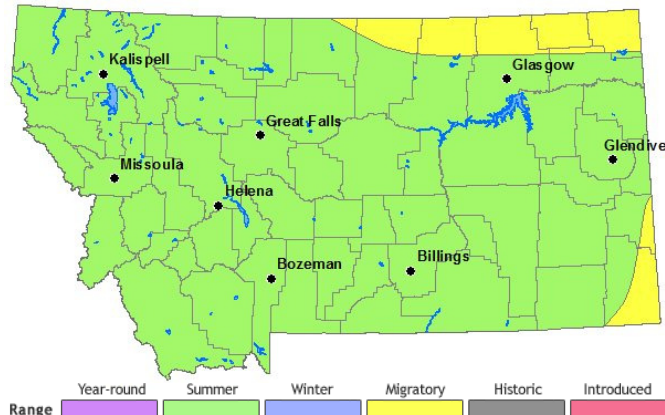


# Osprey - *Pandion haliaetus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3538

## General Description

Ospreys are dark brown above and white below, with a barred tail. The head is white with a prominent brown eye stripe extending from the eye to the shoulders. Females and immature birds have brown streaking on the breast. Immature ospreys have light feather edges on the tops of their wings, giving them a speckled look. Ospreys have long, narrow wings, which are bent at the wrist when soaring. The underside of the wing often appears two-toned, with white along the leading edge of it (except for dark wrist patches), and brown-barred flight feathers. They have a loud whistled call. Ospreys range in length from 21 to 24 inches, and have a wingspan of 54 to 72 inches. A large diurnal raptor with long narrow wings, dark brown upperparts, white underparts, a white head with a prominent dark eye streak, and dark wrist patches (visible in flight) on the underside of the wings; immatures have pale buff edging on the dark feathers of the upper surface; females are more likely than males to have a necklace of dark streaking; average length 56 to 64 cm, wingspan 147 to 183 cm.

## Habitat

Ospreys nest mainly near large lakes, reservoirs, and rivers in Montana. On upper Missouri, nest tree height variable but always as tall or taller than other trees. Presence of a flat, stable surface for nesting more important than tree species (Grover 1983).

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# Ovenbird - *Seiurus aurocapilla*



## Potential Species of Concern

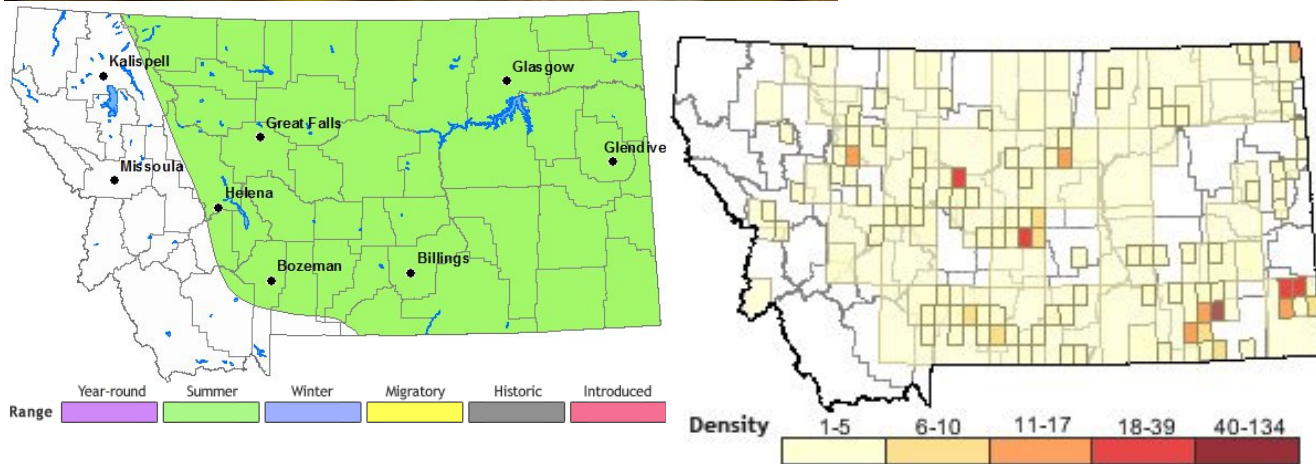
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

### Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 861

## General Description

The Ovenbird is a plump-looking, 15 centimeter-long bird with a thin pointed bill and pinkish legs. They are russet-crowned bordered by dark stripes, with a bold white eye ring, olive dorsum, and white venter with bold dark streaks or spots.

## Habitat

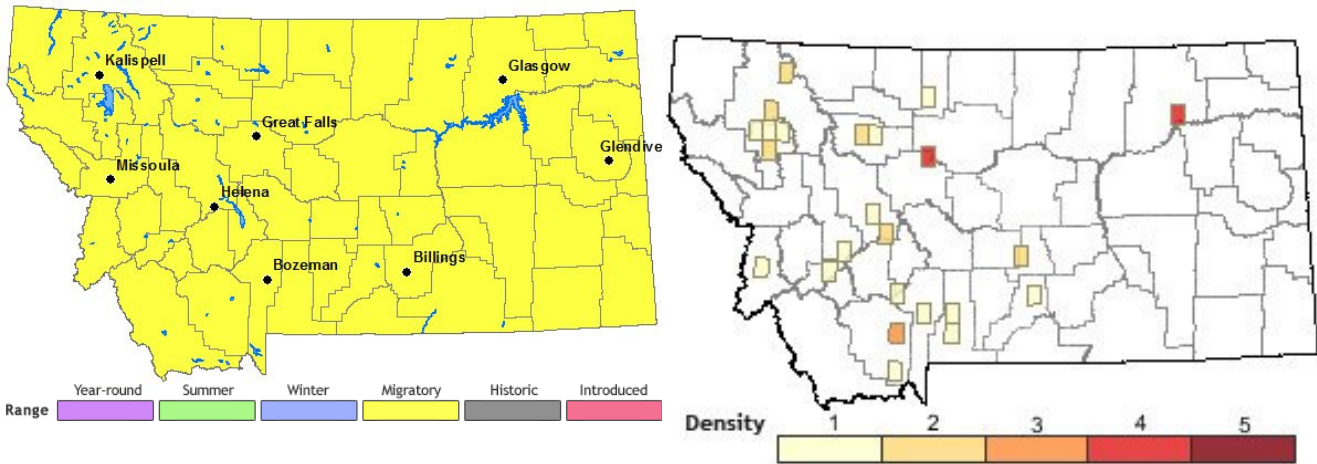
Mature deciduous or coniferous/deciduous forests (Van Horn and Donovan 1994).

# Pacific Loon - *Gavia pacifica*



Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: SNA

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



Number of Observations: 38



# Pacific Wren - *Troglodytes pacificus*



## Species of Concern

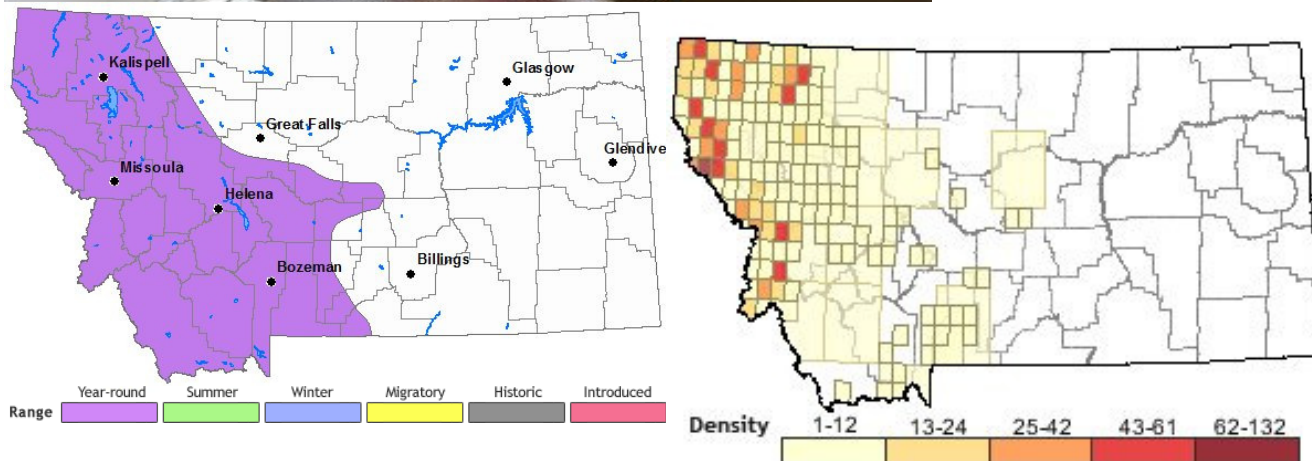
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2837

## General Description

The Pacific Wren is a small dark wren (8-12 cm long, 8-12 g) with a short stubby tail typically held in an upright and cocked position, and with a short slender bill. The color is fairly uniform dark to medium brown, becoming paler on the supercilium, chin, and throat, and with dark barring on the wings, tail and underparts (belly, flanks, crissum); sexes are alike in appearance.

## Habitat

Pacific Wrens prefer large uncut stands of old-growth and mature coniferous forests and also occur in riparian cottonwoods and aspens. In Montana they are especially common in cedar-hemlock, cedar-grand fir, and spruce-fir forests and are strongly associated with riparian areas within these forest types (Manuwal 1986, Hutto and Young 1999, Casey 2000). Snags, large trees, and downed woody debris are important components of breeding habitat. The nest substrate is highly variable and includes woodpecker cavities in trees, holes in dirt banks, niches in rotting trees, root tangles of fallen trees, clumps of hanging moss, and folds in tree bark (Hejl et al. 2002a). Nesting and foraging typically occur within 2 m (6.5 feet) of the ground. In winter Pacific Wrens use thickets in open forests and lower-elevation riparian areas in addition to large tracts of mature forests.

# Painted Bunting - *Passerina ciris*



**Accidental Species**

**Global Rank:** G5

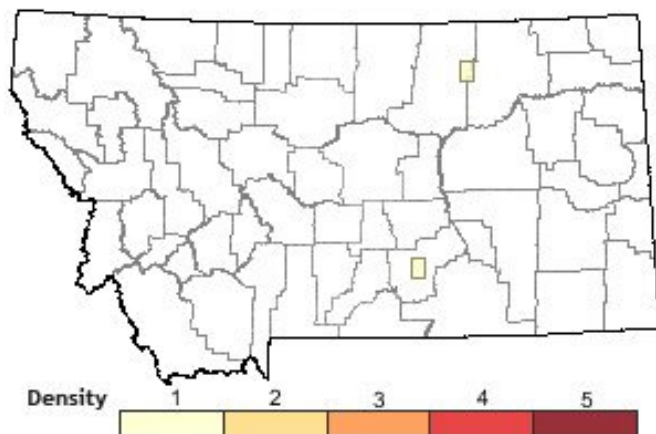
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2

## General Description

See Thompson (1992) for a key for determining age and sex.

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# Painted Redstart - *Myioborus pictus*



**Accidental Species**

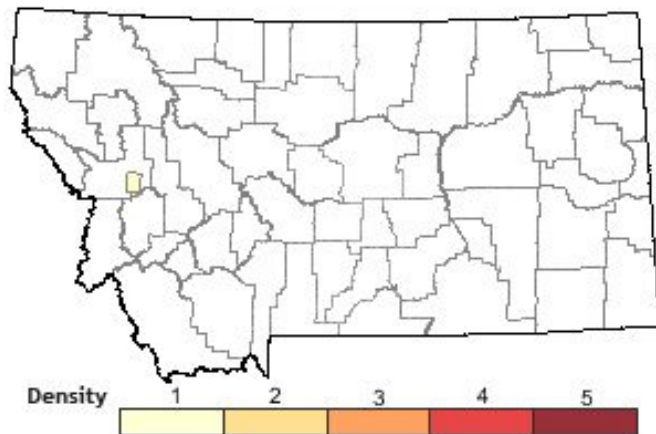
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

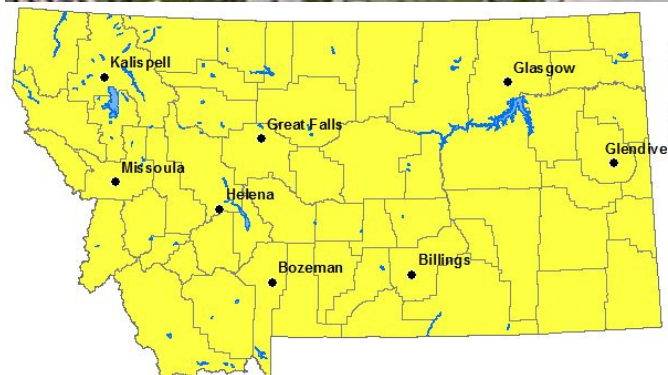
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# Palm Warbler - *Setophaga palmarum*

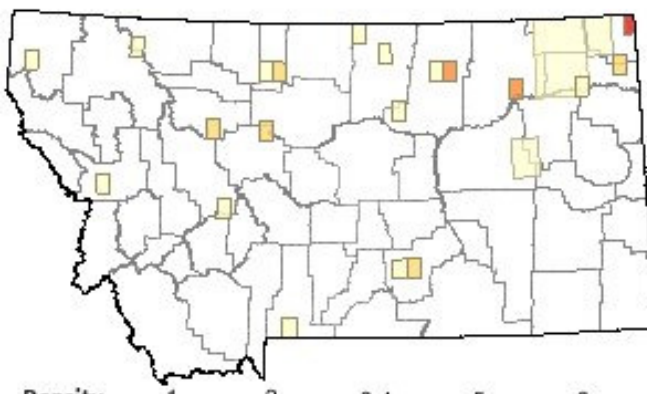


**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



Range    Year-round    Summer    Winter    Migratory    Historic    Introduced



Density    1    2    3-4    5    6

**Number of Observations:** 38



# Parasitic Jaeger - *Stercorarius parasiticus*



**Accidental Species**

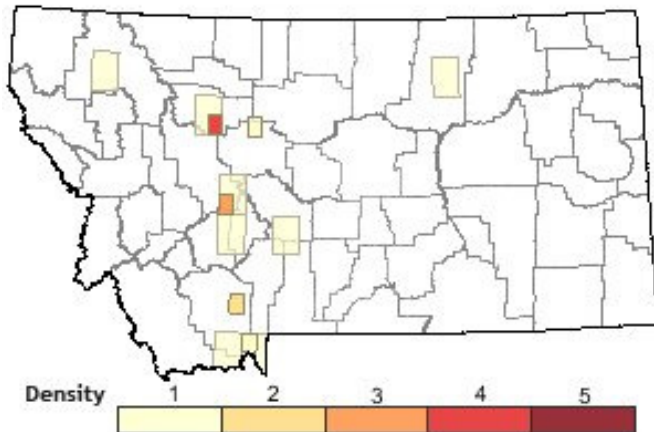
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 19

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## Passenger Pigeon - *Ectopistes migratorius*



**Global Rank:** GX  
**State Rank:** SX

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**

**Number of Observations:** 0

### General Description

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Once an extremely abundant species, the Passenger Pigeon was hunted to extinction by the early 1900's. The last recorded live bird (Martha) died on September 1, 1914 at the Cincinnati Zoo.

Although there is no evidence that the Passenger Pigeon ever bred in Montana, the species did occur in the state with observations as far west as Chief Mountain Lake (Waterton) and the Hellgate River (Clark Fork). Lewis and Clark on their westward journey to the Pacific first recorded the Passenger Pigeon in Montana on July 12, 1805 at "Canoe Camp" on the Missouri River, just below the Smith River (Skaar, unpublished).

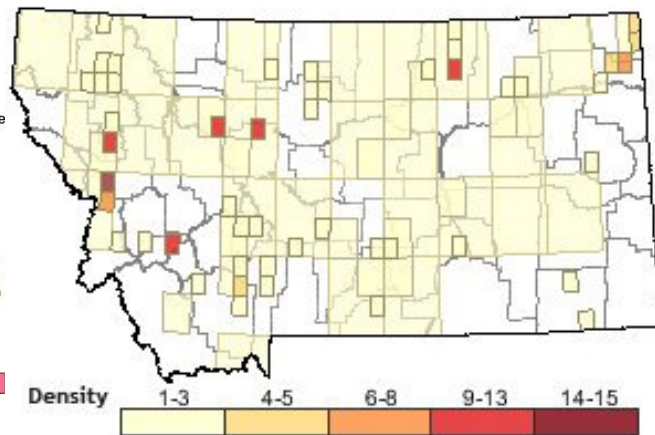
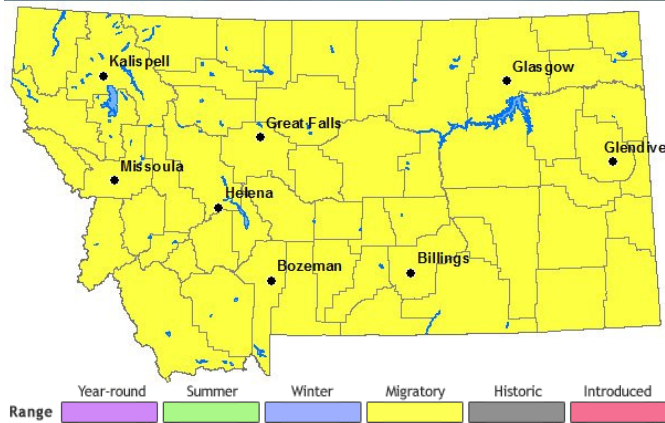
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# Pectoral Sandpiper - *Calidris melanotos*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 231

## Habitat

Migrants are seen along prairie marshes or potholes. They are often found near grassy cover rather than on open mud flats (Johnsgard 1986).

# Peregrine Falcon - *Falco peregrinus*

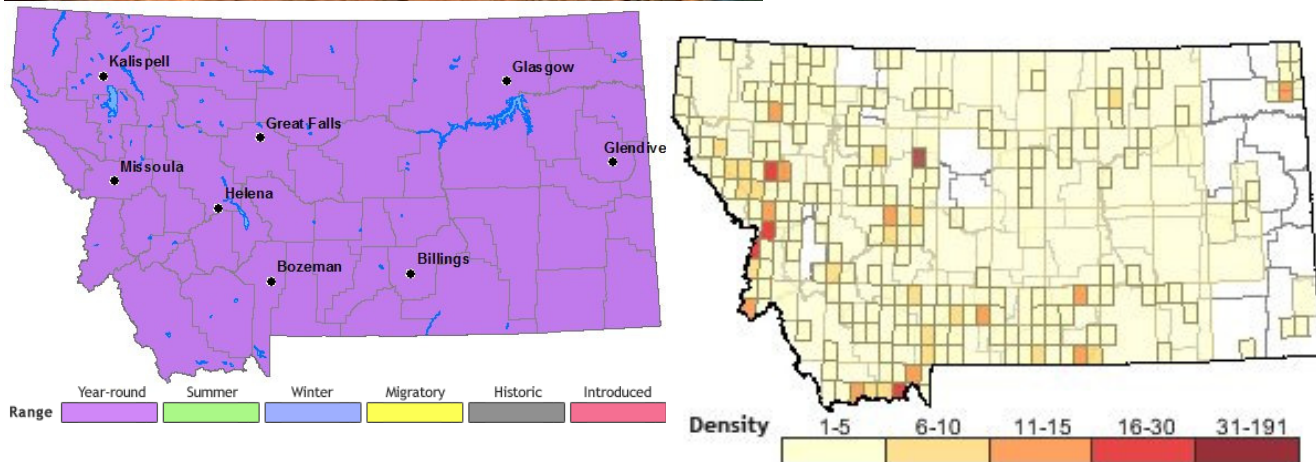


## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S3

### Agency Status

**USFWS:** DM  
**USFS:** SENSITIVE  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 1235

## General Description

The Peregrine Falcon has long pointed wings, a dark crown and nape, and a dark wedge extending below the eye. The forehead is pale in immature birds, which are mainly brownish above rather than black or gray as in adults. Arctic birds are relatively pale, and the Peregrine Falcons of the northwest coast of North America are very dark, compared to the intermediate coloration of the subspecies (*anatum*) that once ranged across North America. They average 41 to 51 cm long and 91 to 112 cm in wingspan.

## Habitat

Nests typically are situated on ledges of vertical cliffs, often with a sheltering overhang. Ideal locations include undisturbed areas with a wide view, near water, and close to plentiful prey. Substitute man-made sites can include tall buildings, bridges, rock quarries, and raised platforms.

In fall in the Bozeman area, birds have been seen following flocks of shore birds at the lakes (Skaar 1969).



# Philadelphia Vireo - *Vireo philadelphicus*



**Accidental Species**

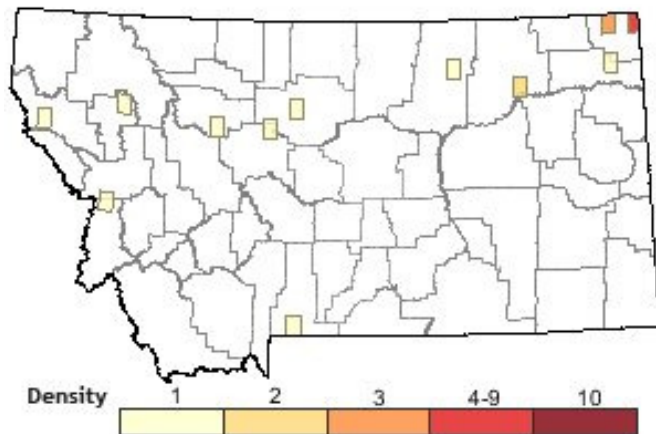
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 23

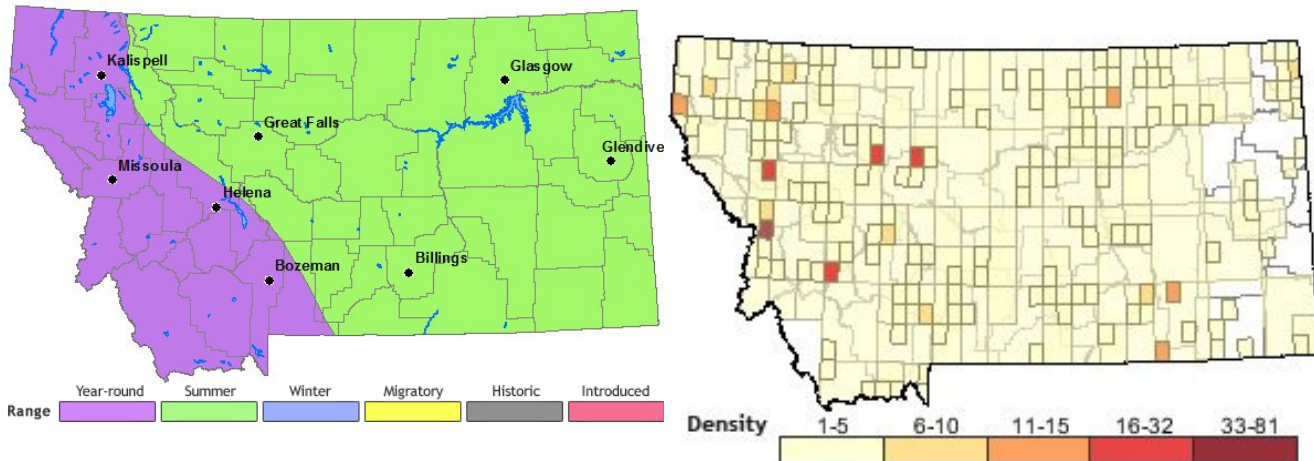
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# Pied-billed Grebe - *Podilymbus podiceps*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 945

## General Description

A small, stocky, and poorly buoyant water bird, 31 to 38 cm in length (Cramp 1977), with small, narrow wings, feet placed far back, and a blunt-ended posterior. During the non-breeding period, the bill is unmarked, the throat is white, and the white rear becomes more conspicuous. As adults, sexes are alike, whereas juveniles are distinguished by the lack of a white orbital ring, an unmarked bill, darker brown sides of the head and neck, and a whiter underbelly (Palmer 1962). Downy chicks have a striking, zebra-like pattern of black and white stripes, interspersed with reddish-brown spots, and a bare loreal area (Palmer 1962, Storer 1967).

**VOCALIZATIONS:** During territorial defense, males emit a distinctive prolonged call, a loud "cow-cow-cow-cow-cow-cowp...cowp...cowp...". This call is reminiscent of cuckoos (Palmer 1962), and enables communication over several hundred meters in nesting habitats dominated by dense, visually restricting vegetation. A variety of other calls are also produced during the breeding season (see Palmer 1962), but during the non-breeding season generally silent.

**NEST:** Build sodden, floating nests of rotting and green plant material and mud. Often anchored to growing, emergent plants. In Iowa, 138 nests averaged 38 cm in diameter (Glover 1953).

**EGGS:** elliptical to sub-elliptical, approx. 44.3 by 30.1 mm, smooth and nonglossy (Harrison 1978, Arnold 1989). Although white or tinted bluish or buff when laid, eggs gather a heavy, brown stain from the wet, organic matter comprising the nest.

**MOLT:** Molt is poorly known. Palmer (1962) noted that a complete molt into basic plumage takes place in autumn, with considerable individual variation in its timing and duration (Cramp et al. 1977). Flight feathers are lost simultaneously, prior to loss of body feathers. Complete molt takes one to two months. Basic molt and late nesting may occur simultaneously (Otto and Strohmeyer 1985). A partial molt into alternate plumage occurs in spring (Palmer 1962).

## Habitat

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In the fall, Bozeman area, the birds move away from marshes and into open water (Skaar 1969). It seeks similar habitat during migration and wintering, as long as it is ice free. Fresh water to moderately brackish ponds are part of its breeding area. (Muller & Storer, 1999)

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# Pileated Woodpecker - *Dryocopus pileatus*



## Species of Concern

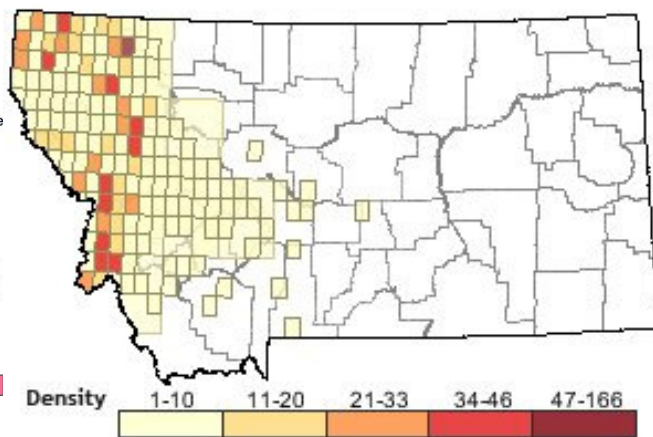
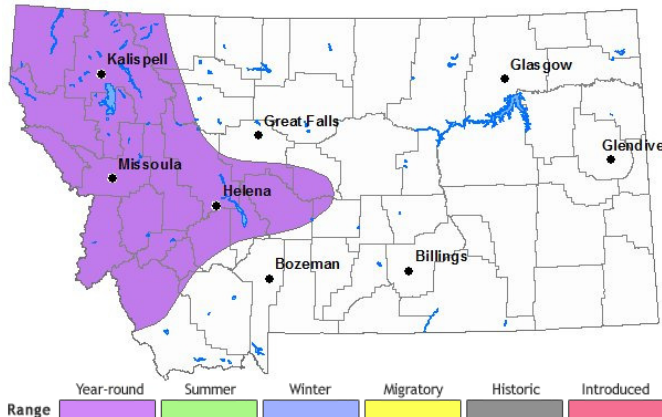
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3026

## General Description

A crested, black woodpecker with wing span of about 70 cm. More or less uniformly black body with a white line extending down the neck from the bill to underwing area; white throat and line above the eye; black through the eye. Male with a vivid red crest extending from the bill to the nape and a red moustache mark extending from the bill. Female slightly smaller than male and with gray to brown forehead, red crest, and no red moustache mark. In all sex and age groups, a few gray-white bars can be found on the flanks. In flight, wings show black leading and trailing edges and white near the center of the wing close to the body. Juveniles have duller, more loosely textured feathers; primary 10 is longer, broader, and less pointed. Voice a loud, characteristic kuk-kuk-kuk-kuk; drumming a deep resonant roll that carries a kilometer or more (Bull and Jackson 1995).

## Habitat

Late successional stages of coniferous or deciduous forest preferred, but also younger forests that have scattered, large dead trees (Bull and Jackson 1995). In forests of northwestern Montana dominated by western larch and Douglas-fir, Pileated Woodpecker nests (113 in 97 trees) were in western larch (52), ponderosa pine (18) black cottonwood (15), trembling aspen (7), western white pine (3), grand fir (1), and Douglas-fir (1). Nest-tree diameter at breast height (DBH) averaged 73 cm (29 in) and height averaged 29 m (95 ft). Roost trees were similar to nest



trees; both typically were snags (81% and 78%, respectively) with broken tops (77% in both categories). Old-growth stands containing western larch were common nesting sites; old-growth ponderosa pine, black cottonwood and trembling aspen were locally important but more restricted in distribution (McClelland and McClelland 1999).

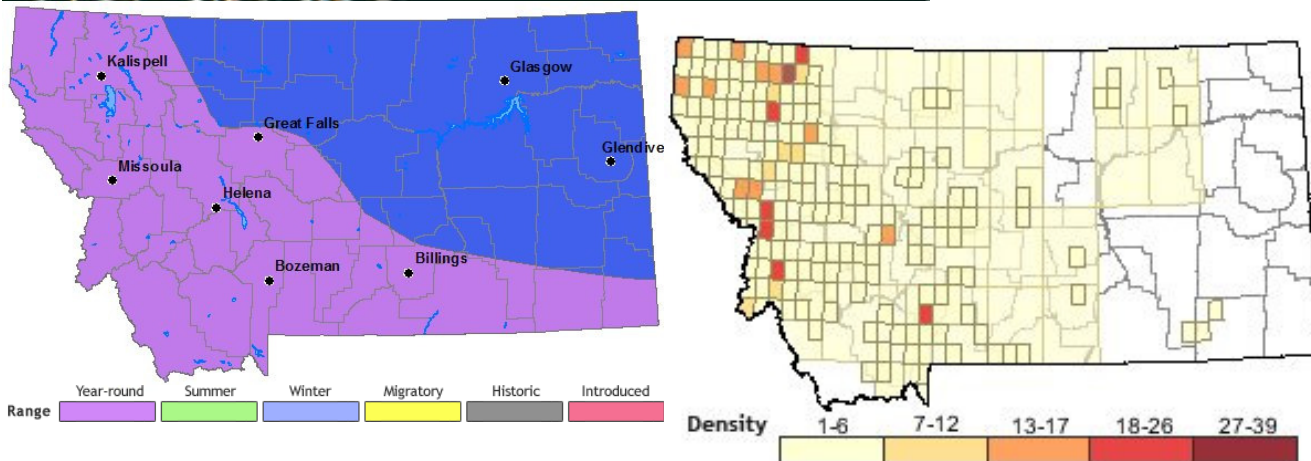
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## Pine Grosbeak - *Pinicola enucleator*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1105

### General Description

A large finch. Adult male is deep brick red to bright red, to yellowish or orange-red on head, breast, sides, back, and rump. Blackish-brown flight feathers, grayish to whitish throat and under eyes; wings with two white wing-bars; tail long and moderately notched; lateral and posterior underparts grayish. Female slightly smaller, entirely gray below and on back. Head and rump yellowish to reddish bronze. Otherwise similar to male (Adkisson 1999).

### Habitat

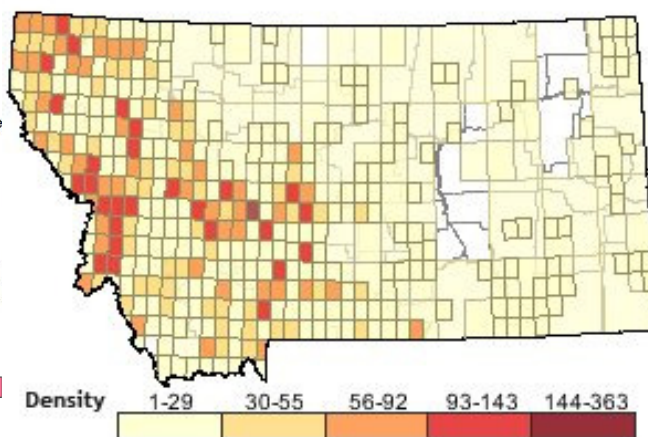
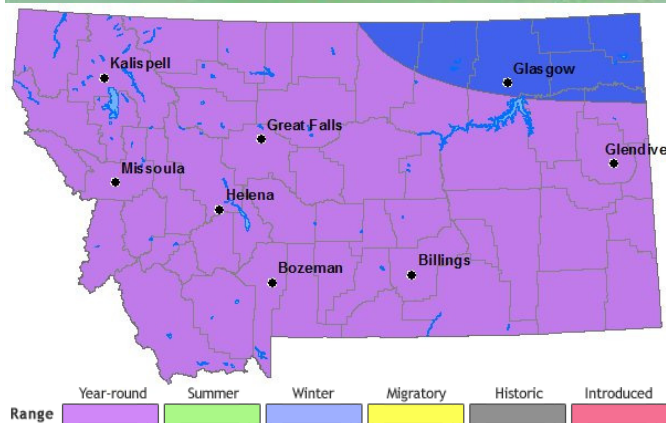
Open coniferous forests of north-western mountain ranges and in coastal and island rain forests of Alaska and British Columbia. Always most common in places where forest is open (Adkisson 1999).

## Pine Siskin - *Spinus pinus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 19687

# Pine Warbler - *Setophaga pinus*



**Accidental Species**

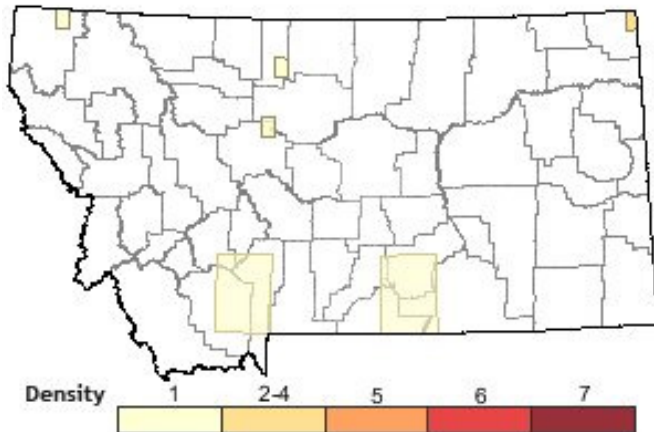
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 9

## General Description

Slightly larger than most other wood-warblers (13 to 14 cm length, 9.4 to 15.1 g). Adult males have unstreaked, olive-green upperparts, a yellow throat and breast with indistinct black streaking on sides of the breast, a white belly and undertail coverts, dark wings with faint bluish tinge, and two broad whitish wing-bars. Adult females are duller and variable, but always with browner or grayer upperparts, a paler yellow throat and breast, duller white belly and undertail coverts. Bill is black and relatively heavy for a warbler. Immature is like adult female, but brownish gray above, breast, belly, and undertail coverts are washed with buff. Juvenile has grayish brown head and upperparts; grayish underparts are washed with buff on breast, belly, undertail coverts, and wingbars (Rodewald et al., in press).



# Pinyon Jay - *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*



## Species of Concern

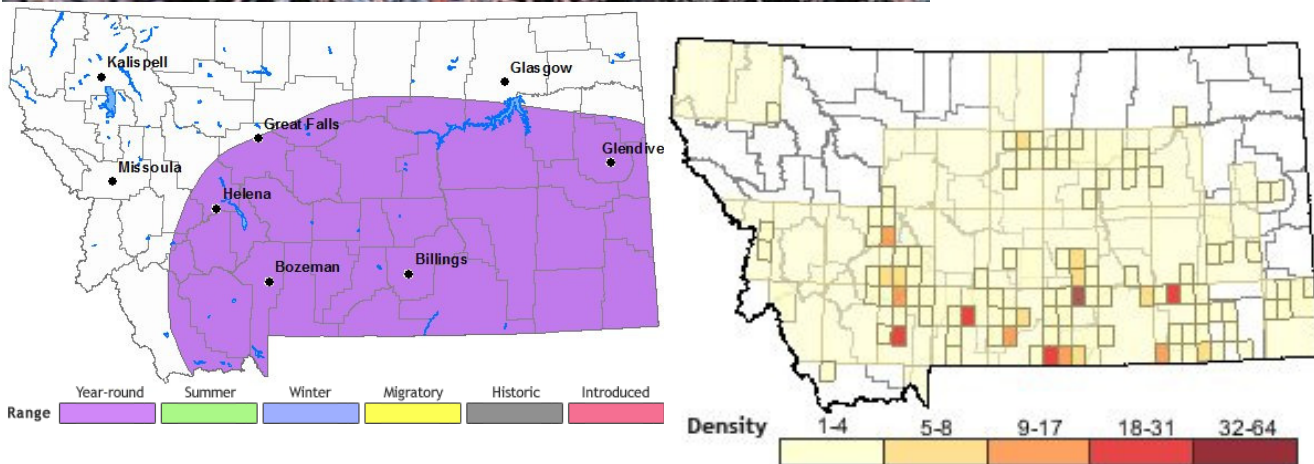
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 662

## General Description

Pinyon Jays are small-medium and crestless, about 26-29 cm in total length. The bill is more pointed and the tail shorter than in other jays. Adult plumage is entirely dull blue, except chin, throat and breast region streaked whitish, and inner webs of primaries black. Sexes are alike in appearance, except crown is slightly deeper blue in males and female bill is slightly longer.

## Habitat

Pinyon Jays are closely associated with pinyon-juniper habitat in the sw. U.S., but in Montana they occur in low-elevation ponderosa pine and limber pine-juniper woodlands. They build bulky cup nests of twigs and grasses and place them on horizontal limbs of pines. The few nests reported from Montana have been in ponderosa pines (Cameron 1907) or limber pines (T. McEneaney, pers. comm.).

# Piping Plover - *Charadrius melodus*

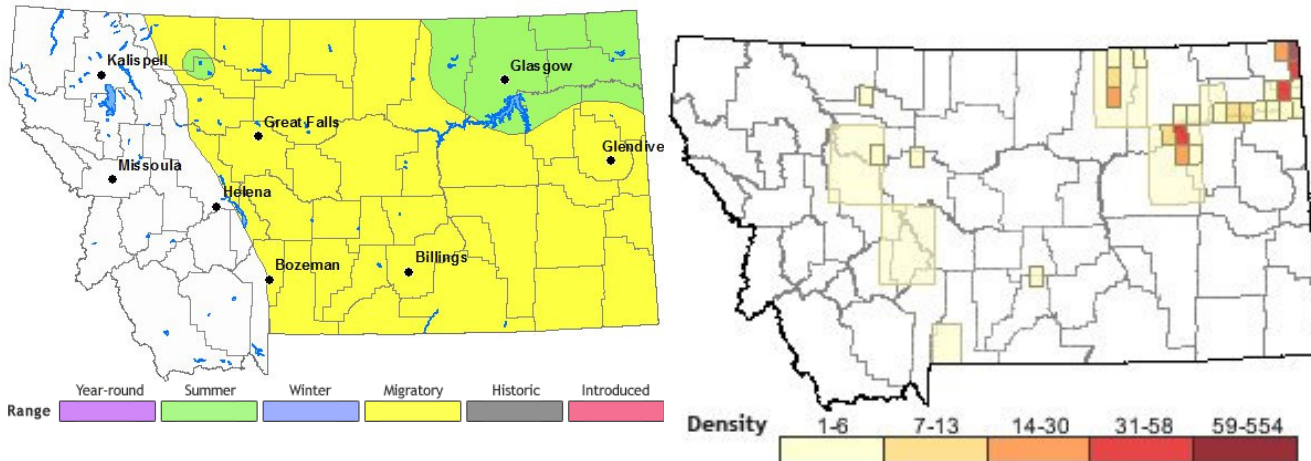


## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G3  
**State Rank:** S2B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:** LT  
**USFS:** THREATENED  
**BLM:** SPECIAL STATUS



**Number of Observations:** 1198

## General Description

One of the smaller plovers of North America, weighing only about 46 to 63 grams, the Piping Plover is approximately 17 to 18 cm long with an average wingspan of 48 cm. The back, wings, cheek patches, crown, and breast band are a pale gray. The rest of the body is white, except the tail, which is dark above with white terminal ends and uppertail coverts. The wing tips have a band of black, then a broad band of white, and end in black. In breeding plumage, the breast band changes to black, and is often not a continuous line, with a break in the center. Also at this time, the otherwise singularly gray crown is banded in front with a black stripe that reaches over the head from eye to eye. During the non-breeding season, the short bill is dark, but changes to orange with a dark tip in the breeding season. Throughout the year, the legs are chrome-orange (Haig 1992). The iris is dark. Immature plumage resembles adult non-breeding plumage; juveniles acquire adult plumage in the spring after they fledge.

This plover's common vocalization is described as clear, low-pitched, mellow whistled "*peep, peeto*" or "*peeplo*" (Sibley 2000). When agitated, the Piping Plover is known to express an extended series of low, soft whistles "*woo-up, woo-up, woo-up, wooo-up...*"; while during display, the call repeated in flight is a high-pitched "*pipe-pipe-pipe-pipe-pipe...*" (Haig 1992).

## Habitat

Piping Plovers primarily select unvegetated sand or pebble beaches on shorelines or islands in freshwater and saline wetlands. Vegetation, if present at all, consists of sparse, scattered clumps (Casey 2000). Open shorelines and sandbars of rivers and large reservoirs in the eastern and north-central portions of the state provide prime breeding habitat (MFWP 2003). In Montana, and throughout the species' range, nesting may occur on a variety of habitat types. If conditions are right, alkali wetlands, lakes, reservoirs, and rivers can all provide the essential features required for nesting. The alkali wetlands and lakes found in the northeastern corner of the state generally contain wide, unvegetated, gravelly, salt-encrusted beaches. Rivers that flood adequately can supply open sandbars or gravelly beaches, as can large reservoirs, with their shoreline beaches, peninsulas, and islands of gravel or sand

(USFWS 2003).

Sites with gravel substrate provide the most suitable sites for nesting (MPPRC 1994). One of the most limiting factors to nesting site selection is vegetational encroachment; Piping Plovers avoid areas where vegetation provides cover for potential predators. Fine-textured soils are easier to treat mechanically than rocky or gravelly soils when vegetation is determined as a limiting factor in an area's ability to provide suitable nesting habitat, but fine soils are not typically a preferred nesting substrate (MPPRC 1994). Another, and more important limiting factor in nest site selection is the location of nesting sites in relation to surrounding water levels. Nests are often inundated because water levels are kept unnaturally high throughout the breeding season (and high winds can cause nests to be flooded), or nesting sites are not available, either because of encroaching vegetation or because water levels are so high that beaches are under water during the early part of, and possibly throughout, the nesting season (MPPRC 1994). Nests are simple scrapes dug into the nest substrate which may or may not be lined with pebbles (MPPRC 1994, 1995, Haig 1992).

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# Plumbeous Vireo - *Vireo plumbeus*



## Potential Species of Concern

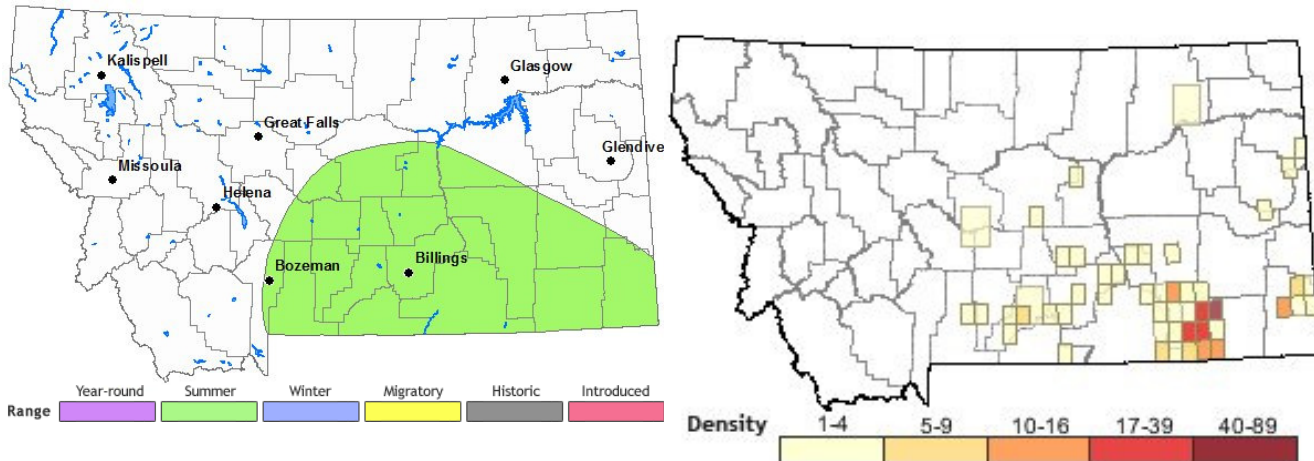
Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: S3S4B

### Agency Status

USFWS:

USFS:

BLM:



Number of Observations: 419

## General Description

Small passerine: total length 124 to 138 mm, mass 12 to 20 g. Upperparts smooth neutral gray; rump tinged olive green. Underparts near-white; sides of breast smudged pale grayish olive; flanks very pale sulfur yellow in some individuals and dull white in others. Head has broad white supraloral stripe and eye-ring, the latter interrupted by dusky loreal streak. Wings and tail blackish neutral gray, with 2 broad wing-bars; outer rectrix broadly edged white. Remiges and rectrices edged pale olive gray (appearing near-white in the field) or rarely, olive yellow. Iris brown; bill black with bluish gray base; legs grayish blue. Sexes monomorphic by plumage and size. Female distinguished by a vascularized brood patch (Curson and Goguen 1998).

## Habitat

Migratory in the U.S. but resident to the south. The Plumbeous Vireo typically breeds in warm, dry, often montane forests of pine, oak and juniper (Curson and Goguen 1998).



# Pomarine Jaeger - *Stercorarius pomarinus*



**Accidental Species**

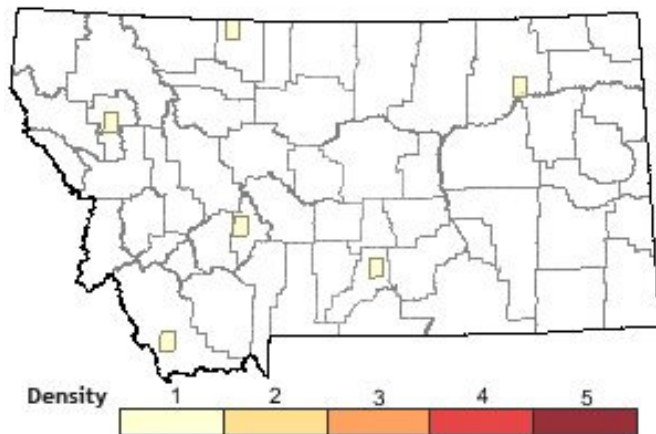
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 7

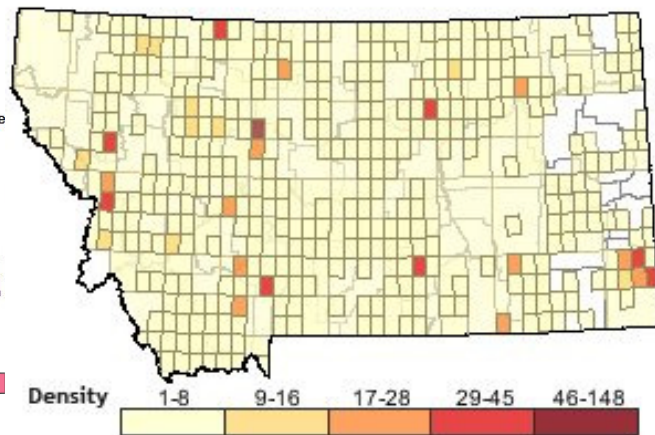
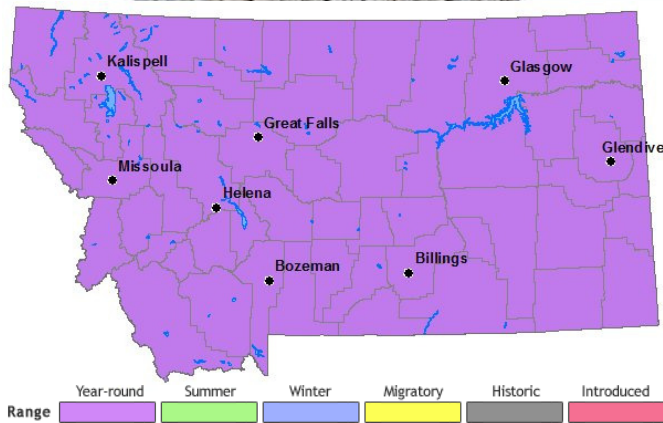
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# Prairie Falcon - *Falco mexicanus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2310

## General Description

Sexes are similar in color, uniformly buffy brown above and creamy white below. The tail is rufous-brown with very fine barring. Adults have a brown-barred breast and belly, while juveniles have more boldly brown-streaked underparts. Both adults and young have dark brown feathers on the undersides of the wings near the body ("wing pits"), and a dark brown stripe running diagonally backward from below the eye. The eye is dark brown. Average length 39 to 50 cm, wingspan 89 to 109 cm; males average about 15 inches in length and have a wingspan of about 37 inches in length, and females average about 17 inches in length with a wingspan of about 41 inches. A medium-sized falcon with pointed wings, a hooked bill, and conspicuous (in flight) dark patches near the body on the underside of the wings (axillaries and coverts).

## Habitat

Prairie Falcons use cliffs for nesting, and grassland and prairie habitats for hunting. 83% nesting territories located between 4000 and 6000 ft. Most nests are on cliffs averaging 125 ft in height. Mean height above base of cliff was 80 ft. 72% of eyries faced south or east. Almost all nests overlooked at least some grassland (Leedy 1972).

# Prairie Warbler - *Setophaga discolor*



**Accidental Species**

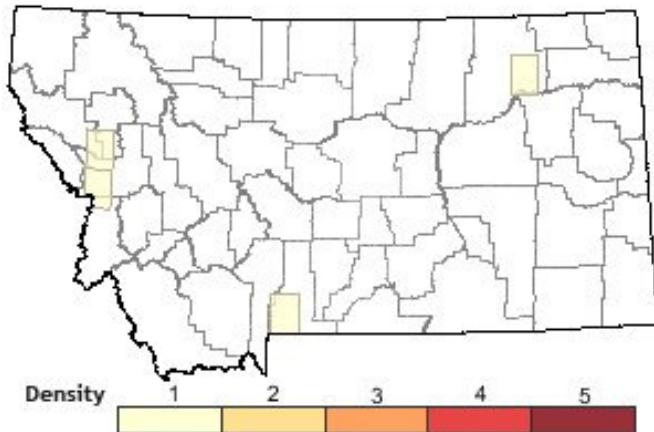
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 4

## General Description

Subspecies *discolor*: Adults and immatures have yellow ventral and olive dorsal surfaces. Breeding males have chestnut streaks on upper back, black eye line, malar stripe, and streaks on flanks. Females have same markings less extensive and olive to dark gray instead of black, lack chestnut feathers, and are paler overall. Immatures are grayer and paler, especially on face. Nolan (1978) illustrated and described plumages; Farrand (1983) and Harrison (1984) provided photographs. Length 11.5 to 12.5 cm, with females slightly smaller than males. Songs are distinctive though variable within and among individuals; the most common song lasts about 2 seconds and is series of more than 10 short, buzzy notes, equally spaced in time and rising in pitch (Nolan 1978). Individual males have two types of songs, using the B type during the dawn chorus (Nolan 1978). Eggs average 12 by 16 mm, whitish shades from cinnamon to smoke gray, with chestnut to blackish brown spots usually forming a wreath or cap on larger end (Nolan 1978).

Subspecies *paludicola* is much paler overall with grayish back; males lack the wide black markings on side and reddish backs (Bent 1953); also larger.

# Prothonotary Warbler - *Protonotaria citrea*

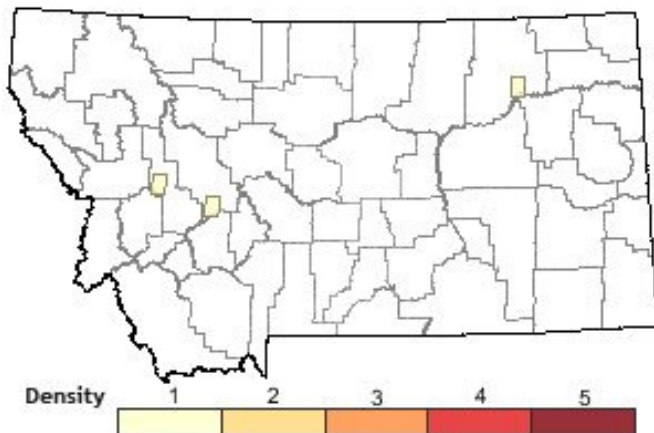


**Accidental Species**

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3

## General Description

Length 14 cm. Relatively large, plump, short-tailed, and long-billed compared to other Parulidae. Eyes are large, dark, and prominent. Male's head and underparts are golden yellow, fading to white undertail coverts; wings are blue-gray, without wing bars; blue-gray tail has large white patches. Female is duller, head less golden. See Kowalski (1986) for information on weights, measurements, and methods of aging.

**VOCALIZATIONS:** Song is a series of loud, ringing "zweet" notes.

**NEST:** cup-shaped hollow of mosses, rootlets, twigs, and leaves, smoothly lined with fine grasses, leaf stems, and feathers; inside diameter 5.1 cm, depth 3.8 cm.

**EGGS:** average 18.47 by 14.55 mm; oval to short-oval; shell is smooth, somewhat glossy, creamy, boldly and liberally spotted and blotched with brown.



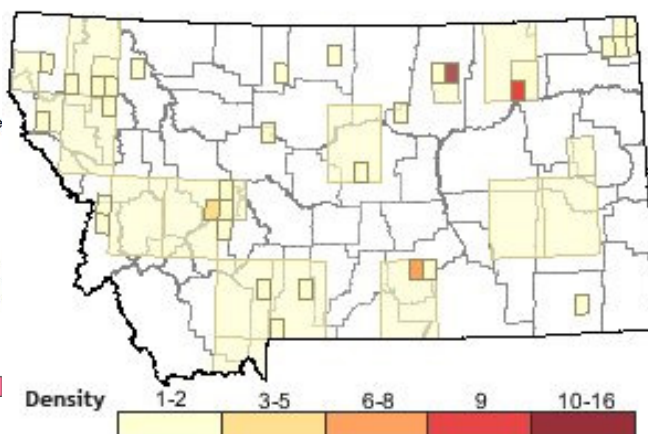
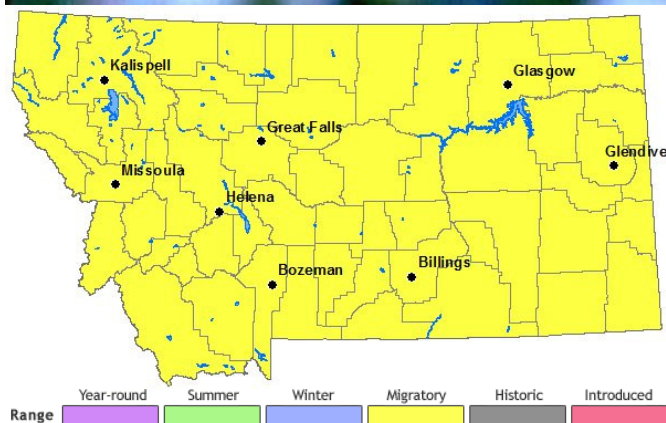
## Purple Finch - *Haemorhous purpureus*



DAN SUDIA

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 108

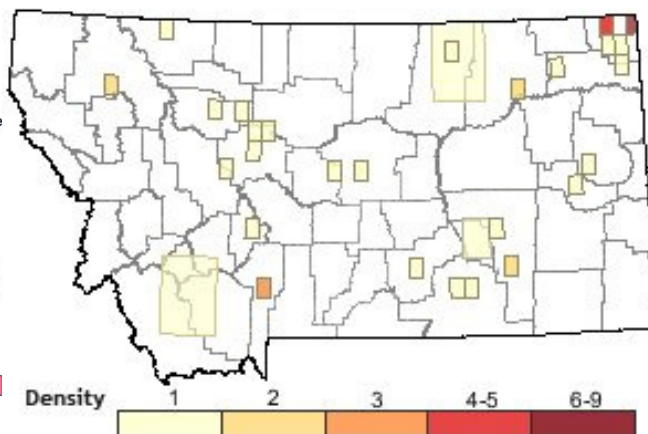
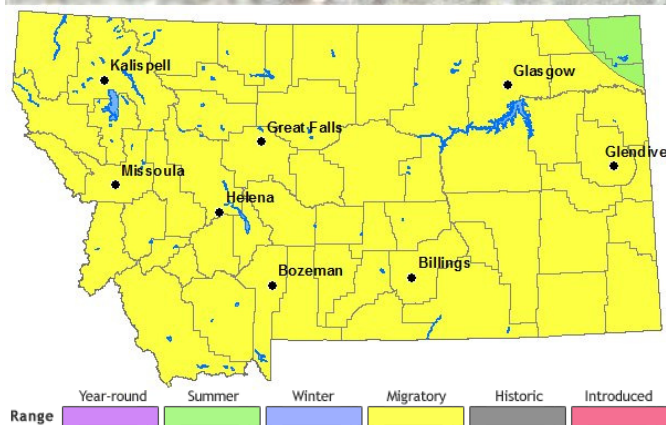
## Purple Martin - *Progne subis*



© Bob Martinka

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



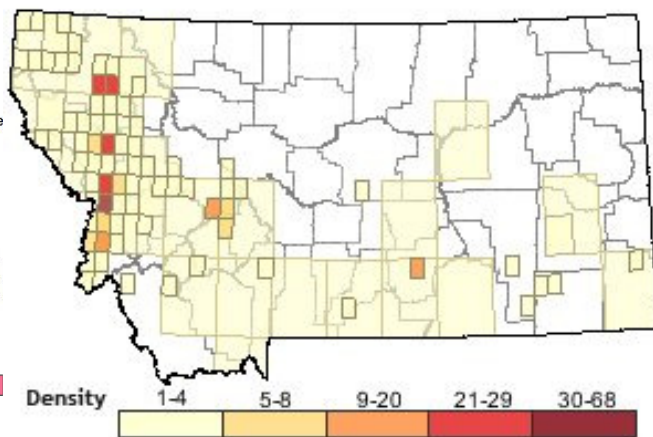
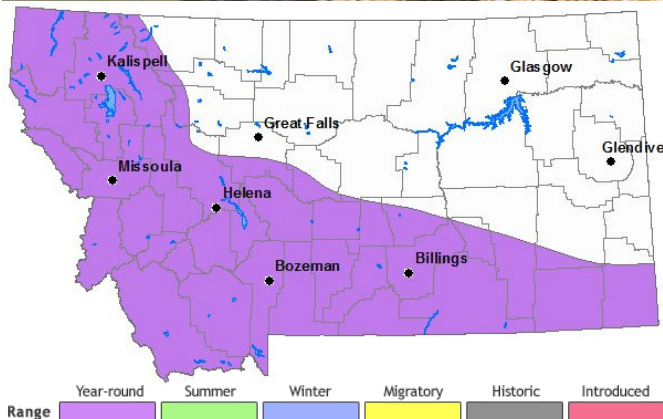
**Number of Observations:** 48

# Pygmy Nuthatch - *Sitta pygmaea*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 566

## General Description

Small nuthatch, length 9 to 11 cm; mass 9.3 to 11 g. Sexes alike; immatures similar to adults. Crown gray-brown, dark eye-line marks cap. Pale spot on nape. Face white or buffy white, breast and belly dull to bright buff to buffy white, blending into bluish gray on sides. Back, rump, and tail bluish gray; base of middle pair of rectrices white. Wings brownish slate with coverts edged with bluish gray and primaries edged, more or less, with white. A bird of frenetic movement - head first, up tree, down tree, along branches, right-side up and upside down - accompanied by constant chatter (Kingery and Ghalambor 2001).

## Habitat

Lives in long-needled pine forests, principally ponderosa pines. Reaches its highest densities in mature pine forests little affected by logging, firewood collection, and snag removal (Kingery and Ghalambor 2001).



# Pyrrhuloxia - *Cardinalis sinuatus*



**Accidental Species**

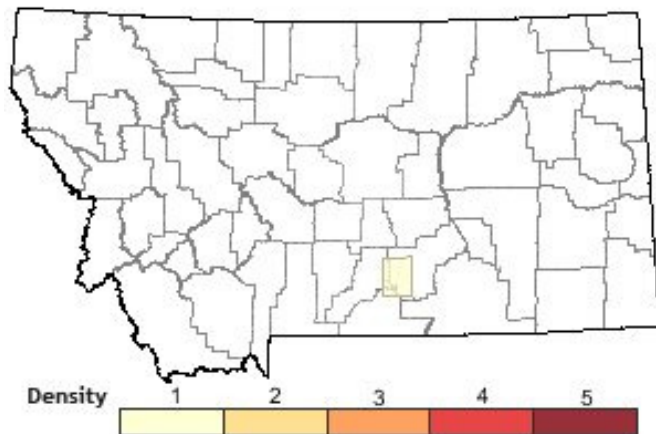
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

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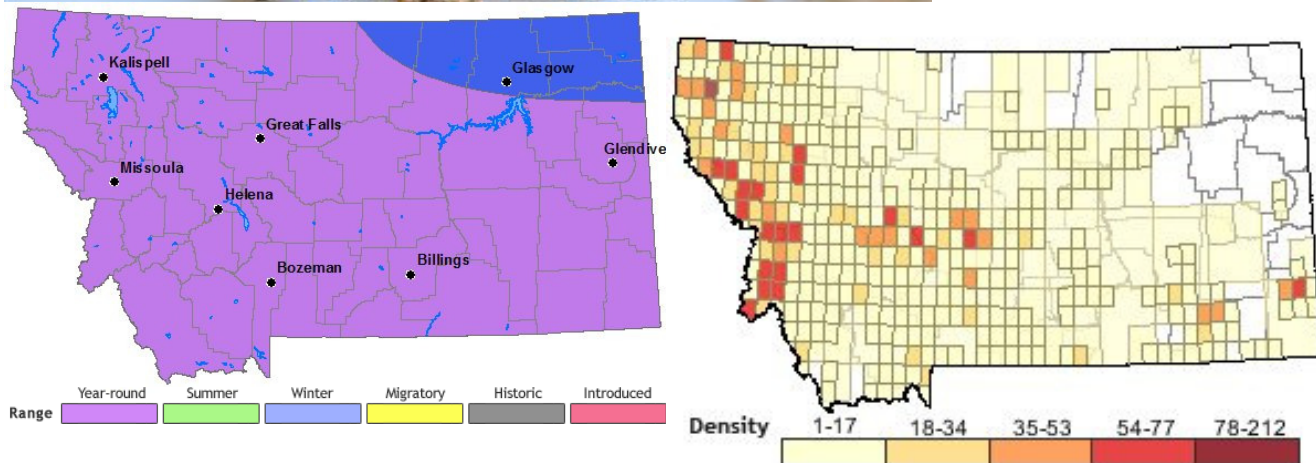


## Red Crossbill - *Loxia curvirostra*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 8715

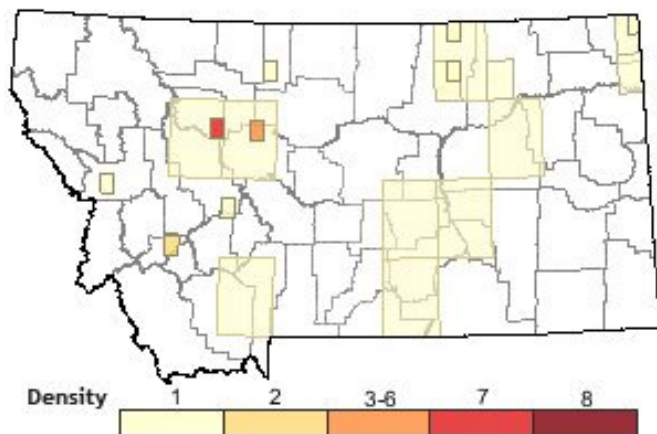
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# Red Knot - *Calidris canutus*



**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 35

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# Red Phalarope - *Phalaropus fulicarius*



**Accidental Species**

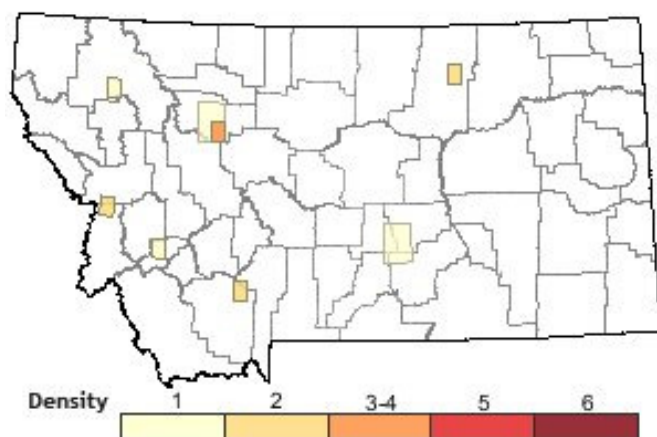
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 15

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# Red-bellied Woodpecker - *Melanerpes carolinus*



**Accidental Species**

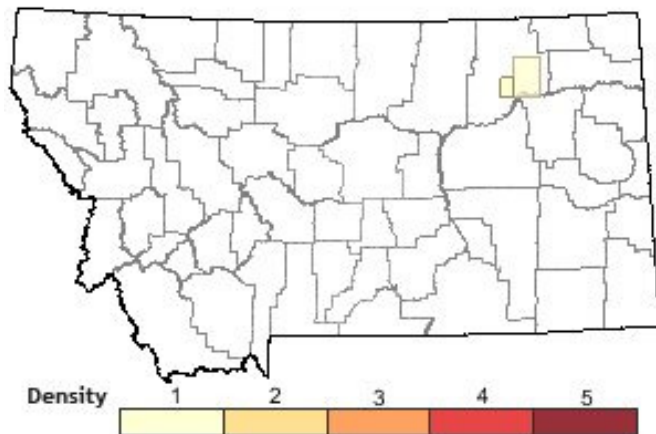
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2

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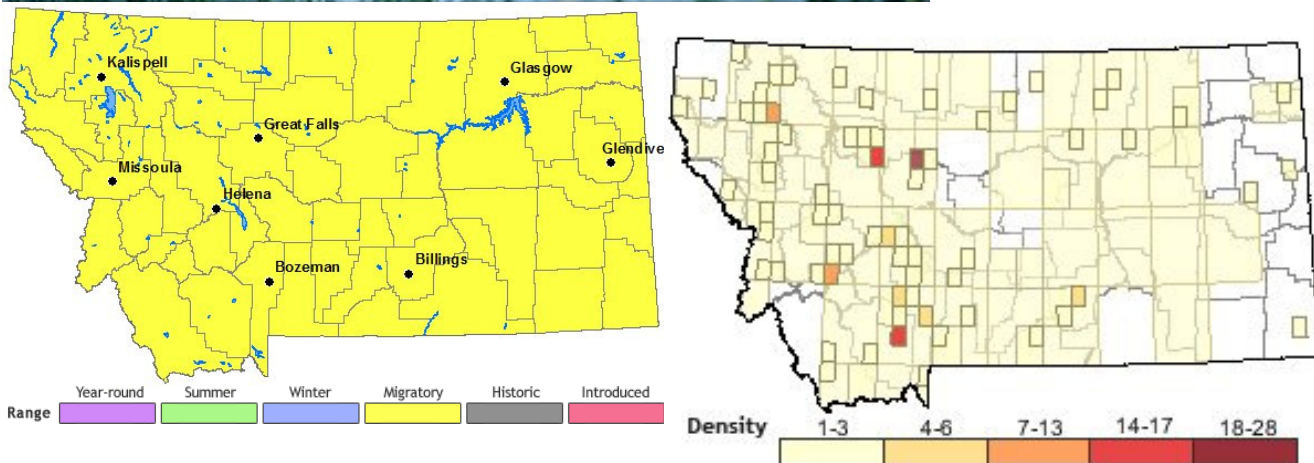


# Red-breasted Merganser - *Mergus serrator*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 307

## Habitat

During migration in the Bozeman area, large concentrations are on the large lakes, but they do occur on ponds and rivers (Skaar 1969).

# Red-breasted Nuthatch - *Sitta canadensis*



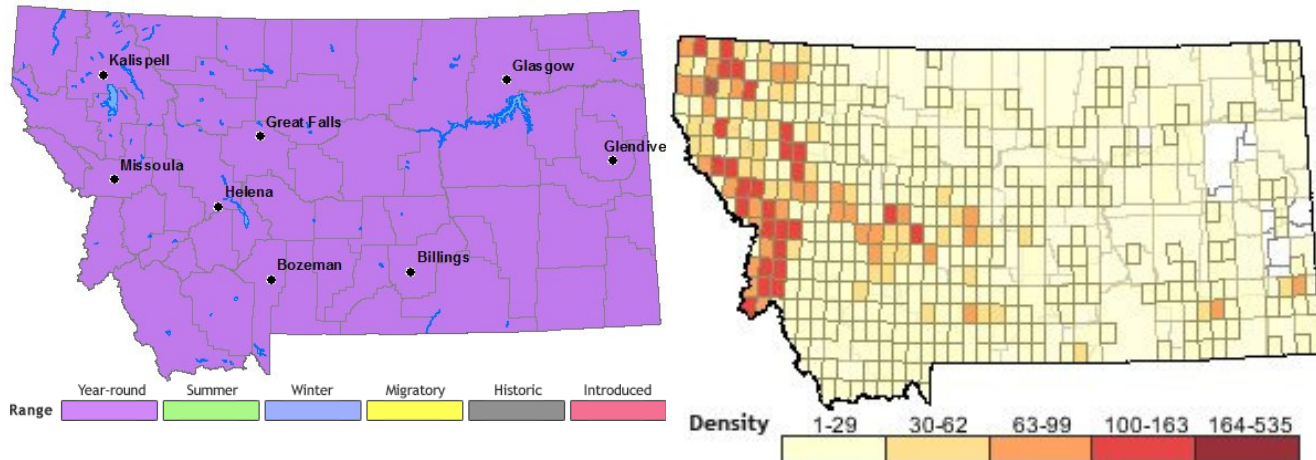
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 20680

## General Description

A small nuthatch 11.5 cm in length and 10 g in body mass. Adult male: the top of the head is black and is bordered below by a white superciliary stripe and a black strip extending from the base of the bill through the eye to the nape. The remaining upperparts are bluish gray. The underparts are primarily reddish-cinnamon. The adult female is similar but the top of the head is dark gray-blue, not black. The eye-stripe is never as wide or as black as the male. The underparts are paler (Ghalambor and Martin 1999)

## Habitat

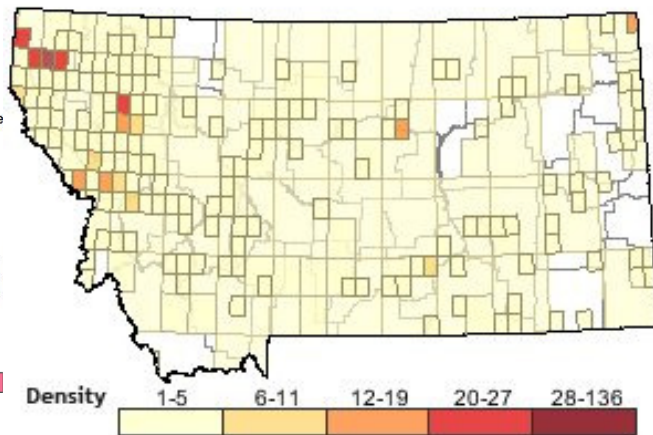
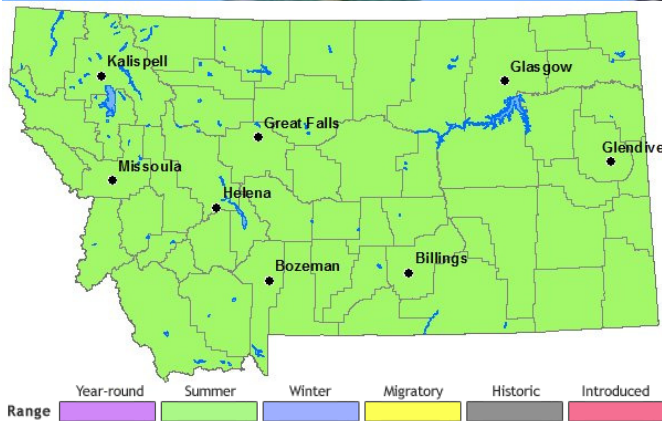
Prefers forests that have a strong fir and spruce component. May also breed in mixed woodland when a strong coniferous component is associated with deciduous trees such as aspen, oak and poplar (Ghalambor and Martin 1999).

# Red-eyed Vireo - *Vireo olivaceus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 931

## General Description

A 15-cm-long bird with a sturdy, slightly hooked bill, blue-gray crown, white eyebrow (bordered above and below with black), dark olive back, darker wings and tail, pale, unstreaked underparts, and a red eye (brown in fall juveniles); immatures and some fall adults are yellow on the flanks and undertail coverts; subspecies *flavoviridis*, which sometimes occurs in California and Texas, is yellower overall, with less distinct black lines on the head.

## Habitat

More often heard than seen. Range wide, breeds in deciduous and mixed deciduous-coniferous forest. Absent from sites where understory shrubs are sparse or lacking. Often found near small openings in forest canopy. Can occur in residential areas, city parks, and cemeteries where large trees grow. During spring and fall migration uses a greater variety of forested habitats than during breeding season, but still prefers deciduous woodland over conifers. Winter range finds them present in various forested habitats from sea level up to 3000 m elevation (Cimprich et al. 2000).



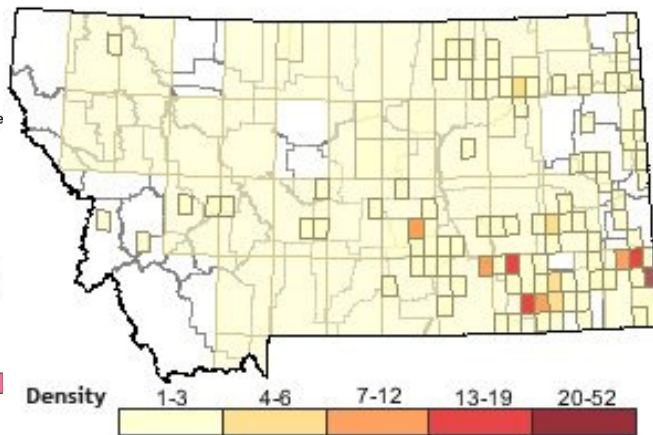
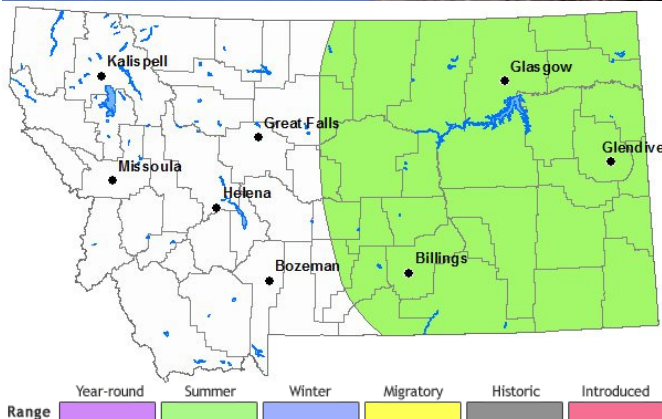
# Red-headed Woodpecker - *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*



## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 394

## General Description

Red-headed Woodpeckers are medium sized woodpeckers averaging approximately 9.25 inches in length. Adults of both sexes have a bright red color on their entire head, neck and throat. The underparts are white and the back is a blue-black (National Geographic Society 1987). Red-headed Woodpeckers have a strikingly white rump patch and inner wing (secondaries) patches that are clearly visible in flight and while perched (Sibley 2000). Juveniles have an overall brown color to their head, neck and throat. They obtain the red during their first winter molt (National Geographic Society 1987).

The vocalization of the Red-headed Woodpecker is a wheezy "queeah" or "queerp" contact call similar to the Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*), but weaker overall. They also have a low, harsh "chug" call while in flight, also similar to the Red-bellied Woodpecker (Sibley 2000). Their drum is weak, short and slow.

## Habitat

With no systematic surveys completed within the state, little is known about Red-headed Woodpecker habitat in Montana. When they have been observed, they are usually found along major rivers having riparian forest associated with them. Another area where they may be found is open savannah country, as long as adequate



ground cover, snags and canopy cover can be found. Large burns can also be utilized by the species (Bent 1939, Ehrlich et al. 1988). They nest in holes excavated 2 to 25 meters above ground by both sexes in live trees, dead stubs, utility poles, or fence posts. Sometimes they use existing holes in poles or posts. Individuals typically nest in the same tree or cavity in successive years (Ingold 1991).

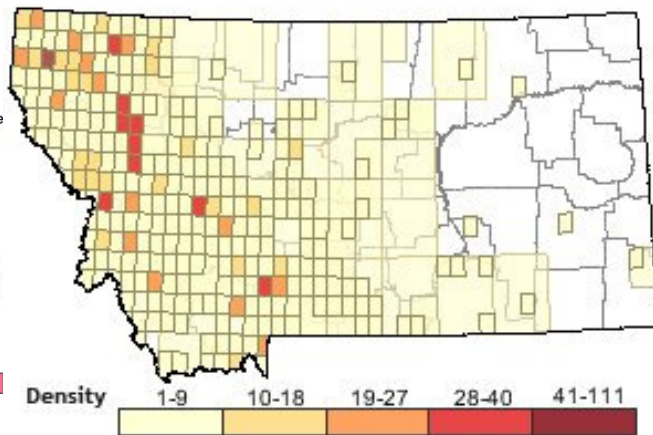
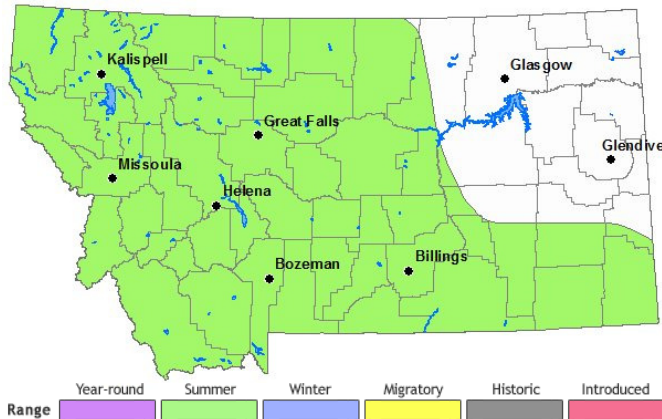
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# Red-naped Sapsucker - *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3172

## General Description

Call a nasal or mewing "cheerrr" or "meeah" like Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; typical drumming pattern is a burst of several rapid thumps followed by several slow, rhythmic thumps (Peterson 1990, Howell and Webb 1995). Like other sapsuckers, leaves distinctive sign in horizontal rows of small, squarish sap wells around tree trunks, especially in broad-leaved trees. See Devillers (1970) and Dunn (1978) for detailed information on identification. Small to medium woodpecker; length 19 to 21 cm; mass 32 to 66 g. Black bib on upper breast, prominent red forehead with black band at rear, nape red, black stripe along side of head bordered by 2 white stripes, crown and nape black, large white wing-patch, back blackish, rump white, and underparts buffy or yellow-tinged. Male: throat red. Female: chin and upper throat white, lower throat red (Walters et al. 2002).

## Habitat

Birds have a strong preference for nesting in broken-top larch; optimum habitat is old-growth larch, particularly near wet areas. Excavates a new cavity each spring. Breeds in deciduous and mixed woodlands including aspen groves in open ponderosa pine forests, aspen-fir parklands, logged forests where deciduous groves remain, aspen groves in open rangeland, birch groves, montane coniferous forests and occasionally subalpine forest edges (Walters et al. 2002).

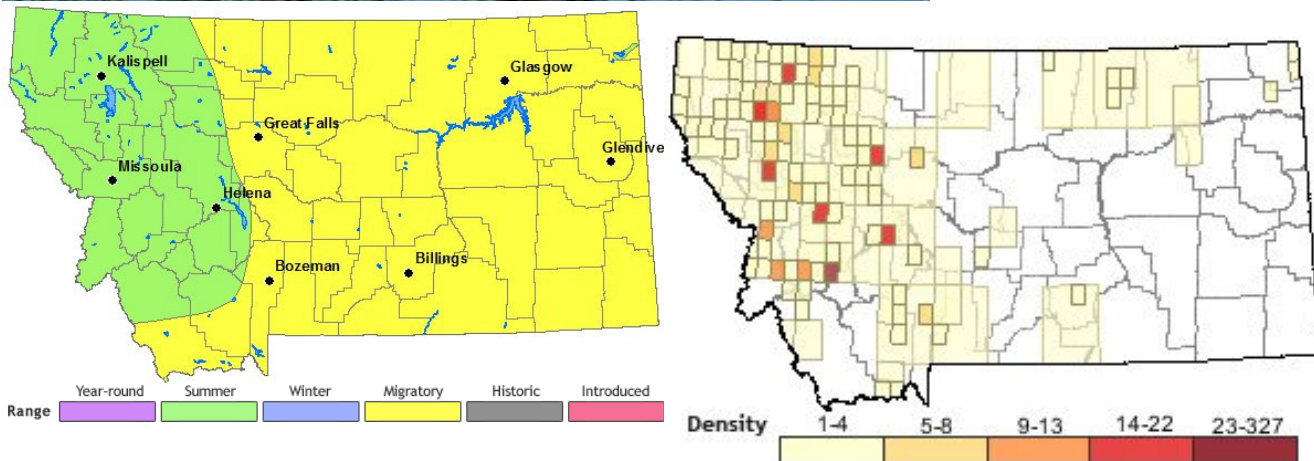
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# Red-necked Grebe - *Podiceps grisegena*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 907

## General Description

The Red-necked Grebe has several plumages. In the breeding plumage it's head has a black cap and pale gray cheek patch extending upward behind the eye. Foreneck and upper breast are chestnut; belly is pale; sides and flanks grayish. The upper parts are dark brownish black. Wings are dark with 2 white patches. The winter plumage has black cap on head, mouse-gray patch on ears, and white crescent extending from white chin and throat upward behind ear. The foreneck is white or light-gray blending to dark gray-black hindneck (Stout and Nuechterlein 1999).

## Habitat

The Red-necked Grebe inhabits mainly lowlands freshwater lakes or protected marsh areas and secluded bays of larger lakes, usually with at least some emergent vegetation. It also will inhabit bogs, sloughs, quiet river channels, alkaline lakes, large irrigation ditches and borrow pits (Stout and Nuechterlein 1999).

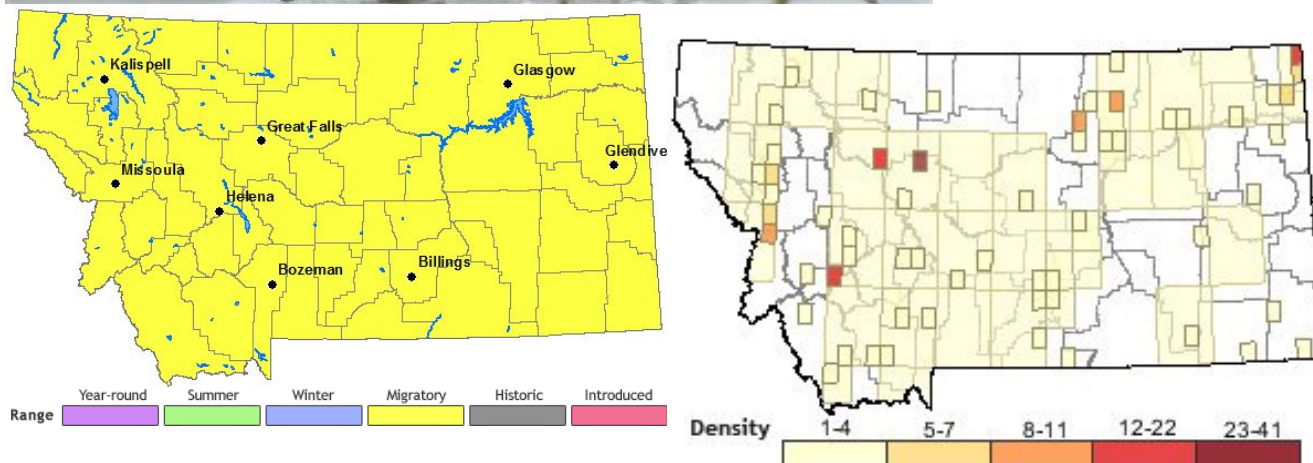


## Red-necked Phalarope - *Phalaropus lobatus*



**Global Rank:** G4G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 323

### Habitat

In the Bozeman area, the species occurs in large flocks on lakes and less frequently on ponds and in flooded fields (Skaar 1969).

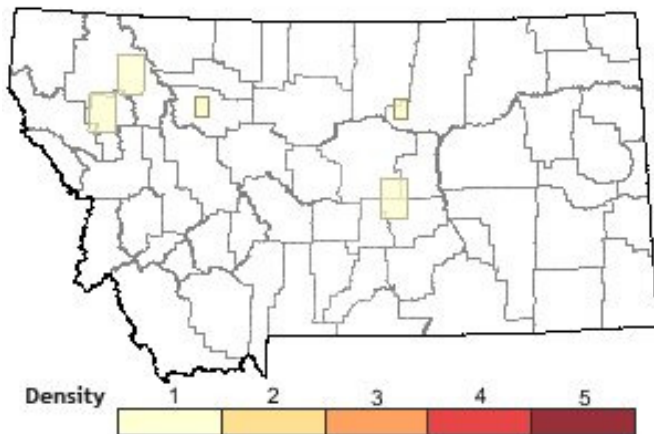
# Red-shouldered Hawk - *Buteo lineatus*



**Accidental Species**

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 5

## General Description

**ADULTS:** A medium-sized, long-tailed, slender buteo, larger than the Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) and smaller than the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). The long legs and feet are yellow, with less than half the tarsus feathered (versus half in Red-tailed Hawk). Wingtips do not reach the tail tip on perched birds. Sexes are similar, except that the female is larger, with considerable size overlap. In basic plumage the upperparts are dark but somewhat blotchy. The lesser upper wing coverts are rusty reddish or rufous and form the distinctive red-shoulder patch. The flight feathers are boldly barred with black and white above, not as boldly barred below, with a "window" (a white crescent-shaped panel) near the black outer primary tips. The underwing appears two-toned, with rufous coverts darker than the flight feathers. The wings are proportionately long and narrow, without the bulges of the Red-tailed Hawk. The leading edge is straight, while the trailing edge curves gently or not at all: "Seen from below, the wing of a Red-shouldered Hawk suggests a long, rectangular plank. The entire wing juts forward when the bird is in a full soar, as if it were reaching out, arms wide, to embrace something" (Dunne et al. 1988). Soaring typically occurs with wings in a slight downward droop. The underparts have transverse rusty to rufescent barring. The tail has several wide and very dark bars; the intervening narrow stripes and the tip of the tail are white. There is geographical and some sexual variation in the number of these tail bars (Palmer 1988, Clark and Wheeler 1987), among both adults and juveniles. The iris is dark brown and the cere is bright yellow.

**YOUNG:** nestlings are thickly covered with long, soft, silky down, longest on the head, yellowish-white above, tinged with "vinaceous-buff" on the back and wings, and whiter below. Somewhat older nestlings are covered with short, thick, woolly down, thickest and pure white on the belly, and grayish-white above. At about two weeks the wing quills sprout, followed by the scapulars, wing coverts, and contour plumage (Bent 1937, Kennard 1894).

Juvenile plumage is well-developed by fledging and held through the first winter into spring when gradually molted. It may not be completely molted until the following fall. The head is medium brown, usually with buffy superciliary line and dark brown malar stripes. The iris is light to medium gray-brown and the cere is greenish-yellow. The back is dark brown with some tawny mottling. The upper wing coverts are dark brown with some tawny and whitish mottling and often a hint of the red shoulder. Primaries are dark brown with a crescent-shaped tawny area on the upper surface next to the black tips. The white underparts are marked longitudinally with dark brown blobs. The underwing is uniform white to cream and shows the distinctive crescent panel or "window" when backlit. Leg feathers and undertail coverts are white and spotted with dark brown. The tail is brown above with many fine lighter brown bands.

A few albinistic and partially albinistic birds have been recorded (Clark and Wheeler 1987).

EGGS: smooth and slightly glossy. Ground color dull white or with a faint buff wash, overlaid with variable blotches, spots, or specks of reddish-brown or dark brown, and rarely pale lilac, with the larger markings concentrated toward the larger end.

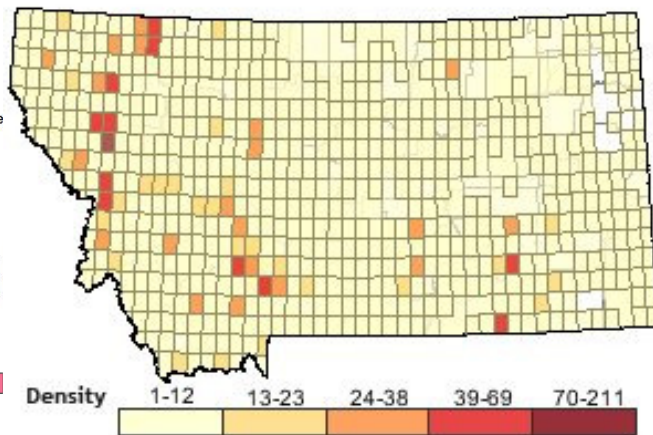
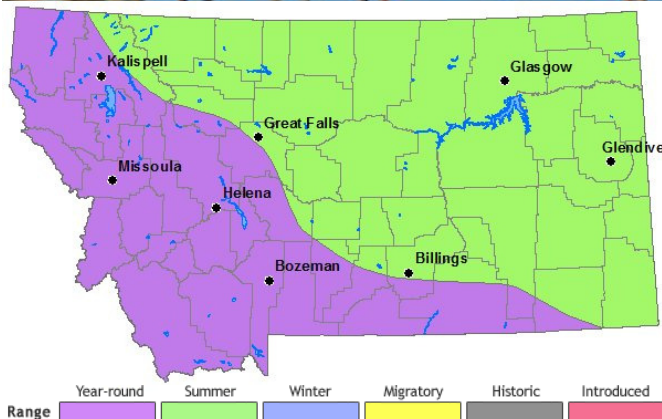
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# Red-tailed Hawk - *Buteo jamaicensis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 6592

## General Description

Plumage is extremely variable, ranging from very light forms to very dark forms. The "typical" color phase is dark brown above and white below, with a band of dark speckling across the belly (belly band), and a rusty-red tail (paler underneath). Flying birds are white with brown barring underneath, dark brown edges around the wings, and dark brown shoulder patches. The dark belly band is easiest to see in flying birds. The western race of Red-tailed Hawks is darker with more streaking than the typical phase. Krider's Red-tailed Hawk is a very pale race found in the Great Plains, including eastern Montana. These are light mottled brown above and nearly pure white below. The belly band is often indistinct or absent, and the tail is usually light rust above and creamy below with faint barring. Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk (formerly considered a distinct species) is dark mottled brown above, and light brown and white streaked below, with a brown barred tail. They breed in northern Canada and Alaska, and are seen in Montana only during migration. All of these races can have light and dark individuals (color phases). The dark (melanistic) color phase is much less common than the light color phase. Melanistic Red-tailed Hawks have a dark brown belly, and dark brown wing "arms," with light flight feathers, giving their wings a two-toned appearance from underneath. The immature Red-tailed Hawks of all color phases and races look similar to the adults, except they have brown barred tails and more brown streaking over the rest of their bodies. Red-tailed Hawks range in length from 19 to 25 inches, and have a wingspan of 46 to 58 inches.



**Habitat**

Red-tailed Hawks nest in trees and on cliffs, and hunt over grasslands, open woodlands, and agricultural areas.

## Red-throated Loon - *Gavia stellata*



**Accidental Species**

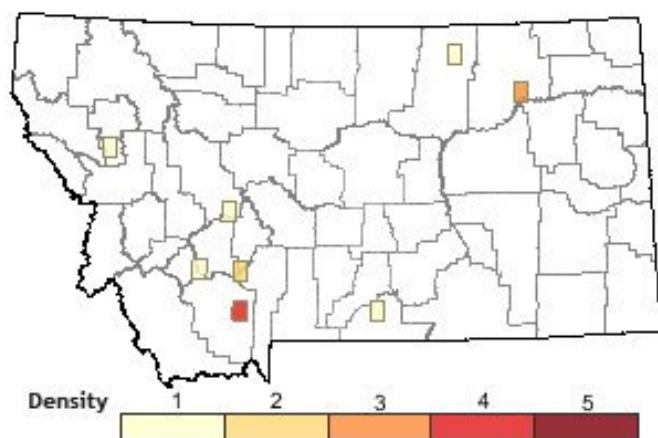
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 14

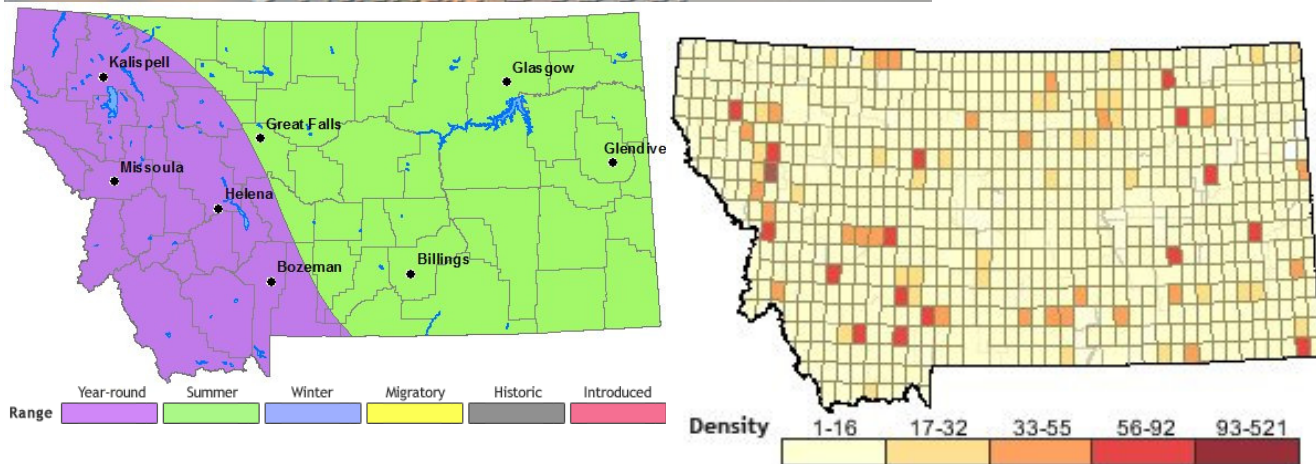
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# Red-winged Blackbird - *Agelaius phoeniceus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 10083

## General Description

Medium-sized, sexually dimorphic blackbird with medium-length, slender bill. Male displays delayed plumage maturation; third-year and older male is glossy black with "epaulets" of red (for which species is named) bordered with yellow on wrist (bend) of wing. Second-year male is highly variable in plumage, from female-like brown with heavily streaked breast to black with brown flecks; epaulets are also variable, typically red-orange with brown or black spotting. Female also shows some delayed plumage maturation, but less than male. All females are mottled brown above and heavily streaked below with a prominent white eyebrow stripe. Third-year and older females are variable in throat (pink to buffy) and epaulet (dull orange to bright red-orange) color. Second-year females are less variable, throat and face light pink, epaulets brown to salmon (Yasukawa and Searcy 1995).

## Habitat

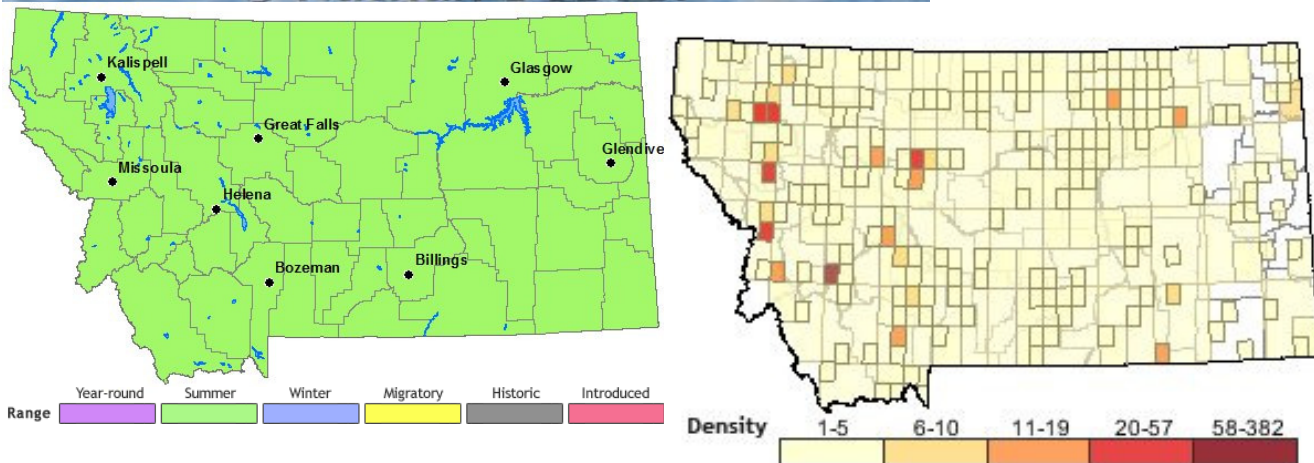
Breeds in a variety of wetland and upland habitats. Wetland habitats include freshwater marsh, saltwater marsh, and rice paddies. Upland breeding habitats commonly include sedge meadows, alfalfa fields and other crop lands and old fields. Roosts in habitats with dense cover (Yasukawa and Searcy 1995).

## Redhead - *Aythya americana*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1690

### General Description

Medium-sized diving duck. Adult male in breeding plumage has rufous head and neck, black breast, gray body, black hindquarters, yellowish eye, and blue-gray bill with black tip and white subterminal band. Non-breeding male resembles female, but with reddish-brown head and yellowish eye. Female, at all times, is entirely plain brownish with whitish belly, grayish secondaries, whitish chin and eye-ring, dark eye, and bill similar to male (Woodin and Michot 2002).

### Habitat

Habitat generalist; opportunistic in use of wetlands (Woodin and Michot 2002). In Flathead valley, small, shallow potholes with dense emergent vegetation is preferred for nesting. Comments on habitat can be found in Holm (1984). In the Bozeman area, they are confined to lakes and ponds at all seasons (Skaar 1969).

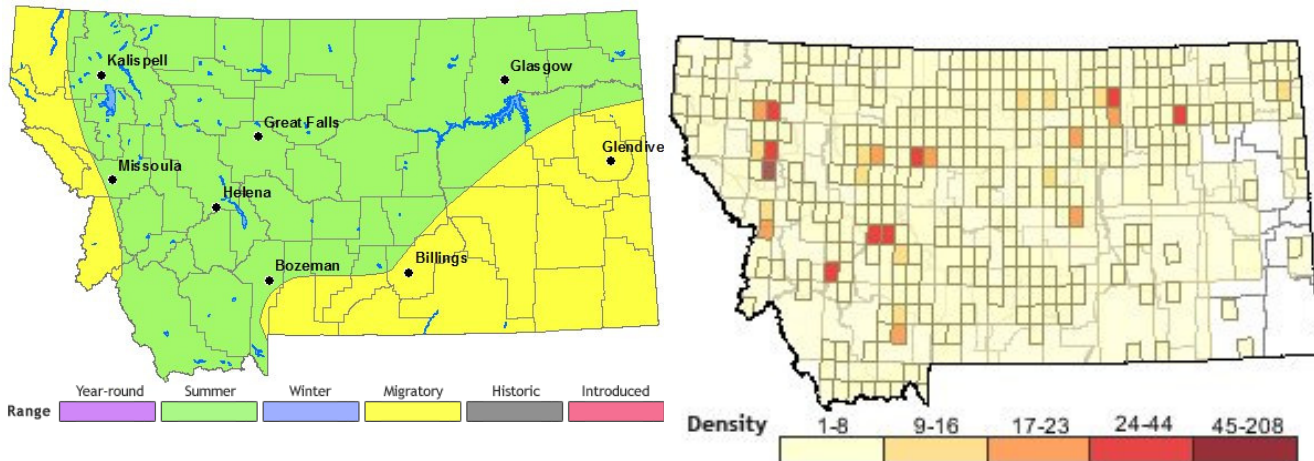


# Ring-billed Gull - *Larus delawarensis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2406

## General Description

Medium-sized, white-headed gull. Males: 46 to 54 cm, 400 to 700 g; females: 43 to 50 cm, 300 to 600 g. Pattern of plumage similar to Common Gull but upper wings and mantle distinctly paler contrasting noticeably with the extensive black on upper and lower surfaces of 5th and 7th primaries (Ryder 1993).

## Habitat

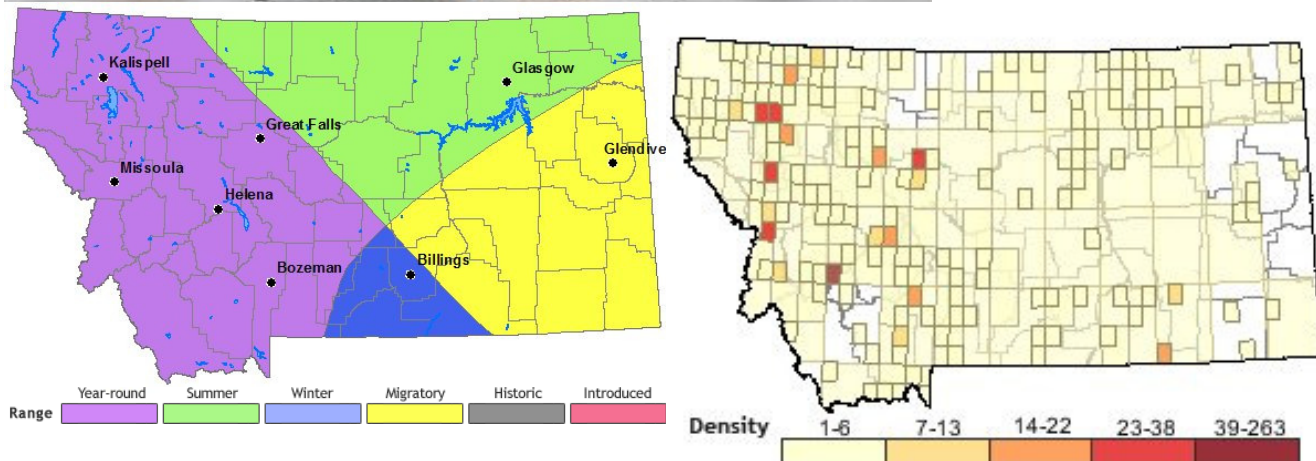
Spring and fall migration prefers fresh water (lakes, river marshes, reservoirs, irrigation and agricultural areas). Occurs inland more often than other species of gulls - near landfill sites, golf courses, farm fields. Winter range mostly on or near coast. Common around docks, wharves, harbors; scarce in pelagic waters; inland on reservoirs, lakes, ponds and streams, landfill sites, and shopping malls in large metropolitan centers (Ryder 1993).

# Ring-necked Duck - *Aythya collaris*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1296

## General Description

The Ring-necked Duck is a small to medium-sized diving duck with distinctive white bill markings and a short crest that gives its head an angular profile. Total length and mass: male - 40 to 46cm, 542 to 910 g; female - 39 to 43 cm, 490 to 894 g. Male slightly larger than female. Definitive Alternate male has black head, neck, breast and upperparts; and whitish to grayish belly and flanks, with a distinctive triangular white wedge extending upward in the area in front of the folded wing. Bill slate, with white at base and around nares; black tip bordered proximally by white band. Definitive Alternate female is grayish brown; darkest on top of head, pale on front of head, chin, and throat; white eye-ring and narrow white line extends back from eye. Bill slate, with faint white band near tip (Hohman and Eberhardt 1998).

## Habitat

Freshwater wetlands, especially marshes, fens, and bogs that are generally shallow with fringes of flooded or floating emergents, predominantly sedges interspersed with other vegetation and shrubs; also open water zones vegetated with abundant submerged or floating aquatic plants (Hohman and Eberhardt 1998). In the Bozeman area, habitat is restricted to lakes and ponds.

# Ring-necked Pheasant - *Phasianus colchicus*



**Exotic Species (not native to Montana)**

**Global Rank:** G5

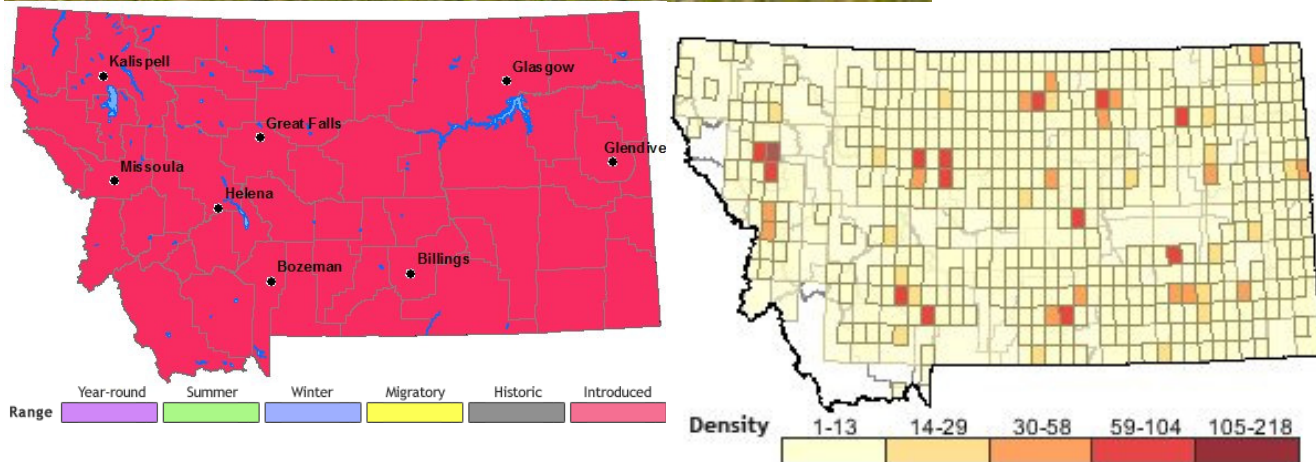
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 6029

## General Description

The Ring-necked Pheasant adult male has a long, barred tail, iridescent coloration, white collar, and bright red face patch. The adult female also has a relatively long and strongly barred tail, but she has a dull, mottled brown back and buff-colored breast. Adult males range from 30 to 36 inches in length and average 2.9 pounds in weight; adult females range from 21 to 25 inches in length and average 2.1 pounds in weight.

## Habitat

Habitat consists of open grassland and cropland areas with brushy cover, especially along watercourses. Good habitat consists of grain crops and undisturbed herbaceous cover associated with brush and trees. Extensive grasslands or forests do not provide good habitat (Mussehl 1971). In winter pheasants are found mainly associated with brushy cover or tall grasses within a quarter mile of a source of grain for food.



# Rock Pigeon - *Columba livia*



**Exotic Species (not native to Montana)**

**Global Rank: G5**

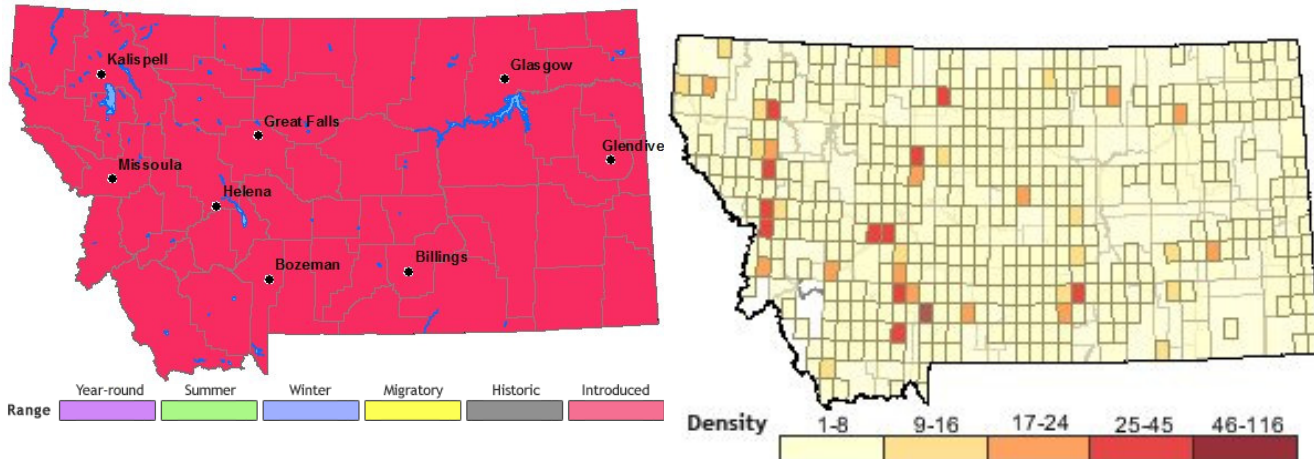
**State Rank: SNA**

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations: 2852**

## General Description

Medium-sized pigeon. Length of males 30 to 36 cm, females 29 to 35 cm. Mass of males 369 g; females 340 g. Bill dark gray; under wing coverts white; tail with blue-black subterminal band; outer rectrix white on proximal 2/3 of outer vane; rump gray or white. Wings usually with two dark bars on greater coverts and inner secondaries. Basic color bluish gray in most, bluish black in some, rusty red in a few and a fraction mostly white or grizzled (Johnston 1992).

## Habitat

Found chiefly in cities and towns or at farms with livestock; not found far from humans or agriculture (Johnston 1992).

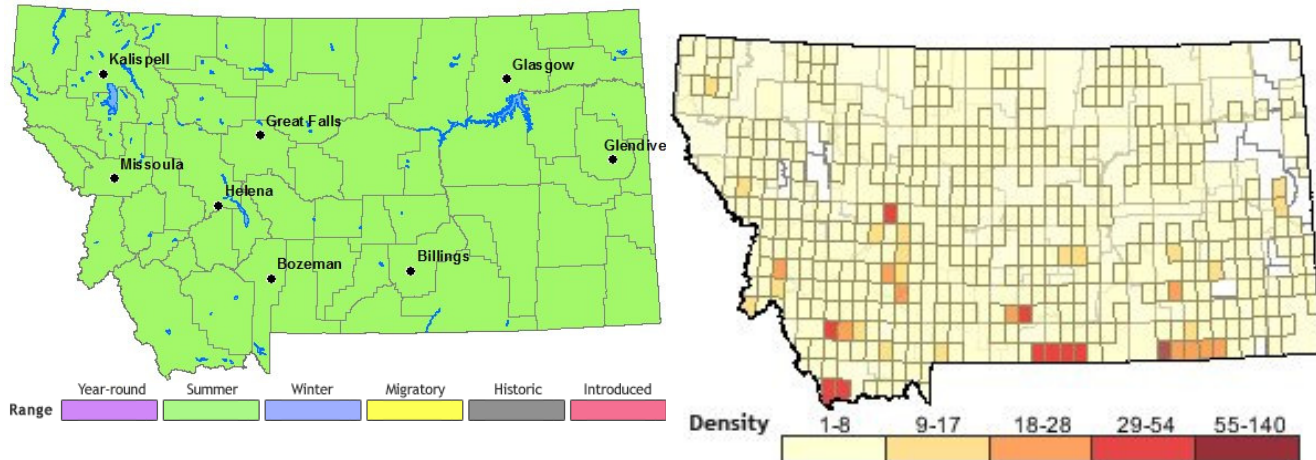


## Rock Wren - *Salpinctes obsoletus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2840

### General Description

Medium-sized, dull grayish brown wren (length 12.5 to 15 cm; mass 15 to 18 g). Adult has grayish-brown upperparts finely speckled with white and black, with contrasting cinnamon rump; tail brown above with black bars. Underparts dull white finely streaked gray on throat and breast. Sexes alike in all plumages. Distinguished from most other wrens by combination of medium size with relatively long tail, paler coloration finely speckled above with black and white markings, noticeable black subterminal bar on tail, and bobbing habit and cheery, distinctive call (Lowther et al. 2000).

### Habitat

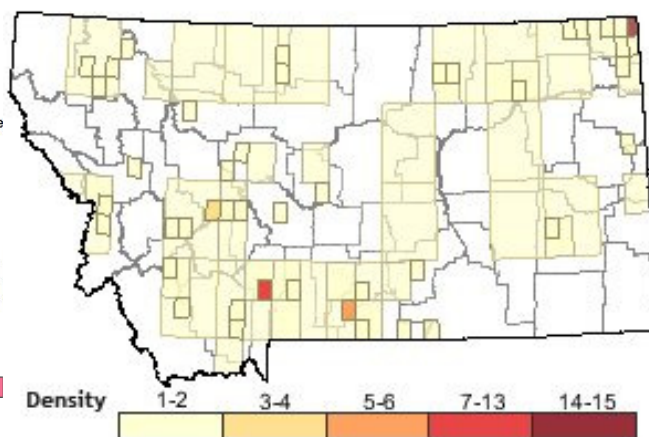
The Rock Wren is well named. Most descriptions of Rock Wren habitat mention "rock" for this pale wren of arid, western North America. Still, these wrens are also found in nonrocky habitats, as long as there exists areas "rich in crevices, interstices, passageways, recesses, and nooks and crannies of diverse shapes and sizes" (Ryser 1985:410 in Lowther et al. 2000).

## Rose-breasted Grosbeak - *Pheucticus ludovicianus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



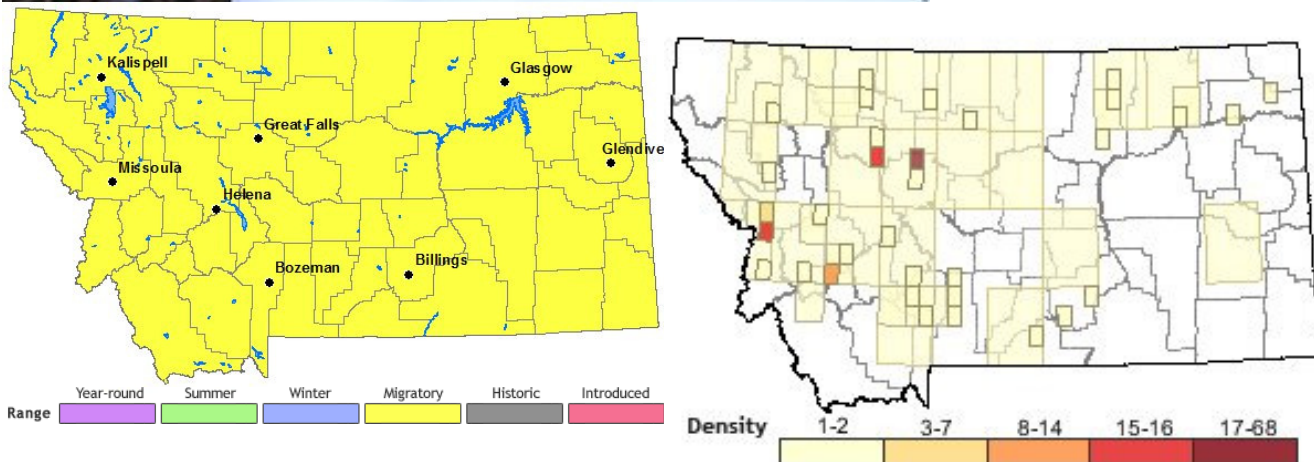
**Number of Observations:** 134

## Ross's Goose - *Chen rossii*



**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S4N

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 199

### General Description

Ross's Goose is the smallest of three varieties of white (snow) geese that breed in North America. White with black primaries. Mean length: male 621.3 mm, female 587.6 mm. Mass: male 1484 g, female 1340 g. Species is monochromatic and sexually dimorphic. Plumage is similar to white morph of Greater and Lesser Snow geese. The relatively short neck of Ross's Goose gives it an abbreviated silhouette. Feather of lore meet base of maxilla forming a straight line instead of a forward curved arc typical of Greater and Lesser Snow Geese. Head, usually lacking an orange ferrous stain frequently found on Greater and Lesser Snow Geese, is diminutive and rounded (Ryder and Alisauskas 1995).

### Habitat

Low arctic tundra. Currently about 95% of all Ross's Geese nest in the Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary in central Canadian Arctic. Landscape is dominated by flat plain or postglacial marine emergence. The main wintering area for the species is presently in the Central Valley of California. It seldom associates with the largest snow goose, Greater Snow Goose; but is often found in the company of the intermediate-sized Lesser Snow Goose. During spring and fall migration feeds and roosts in marshes. In northeast California, uses grain fields and wet meadows for foraging (Ryder and Alisauskas 1995).

# Ross's Gull - *Rhodostethia rosea*



**Accidental Species**

**Global Rank:** G3G4

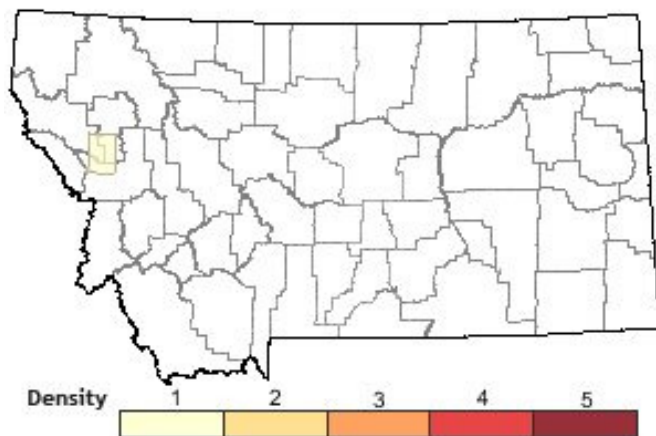
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

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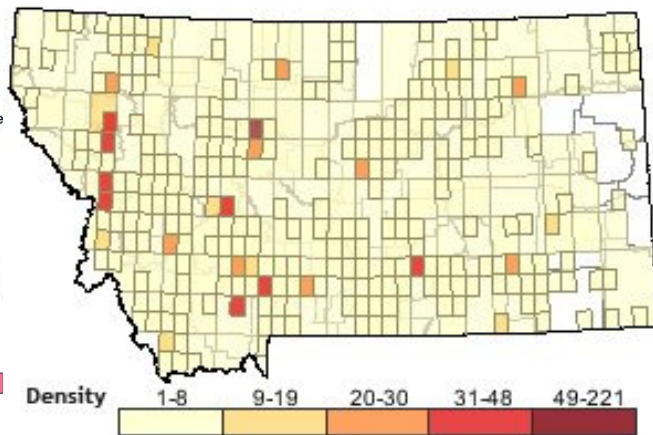
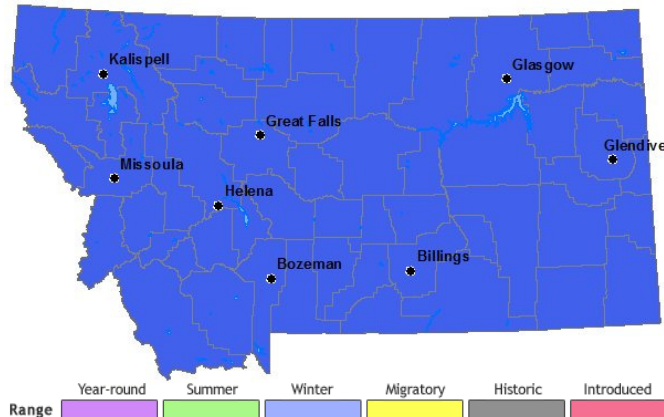


# Rough-legged Hawk - *Buteo lagopus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5N

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2367

## General Description

Both sexes have dark brown back and wings, light mottled-brown head, and a white tail with a black terminal band. Most birds have a wide, dark brown belly band. In flight, the wing undersides are white with brown tips. Light-phase birds have a dark patch of brown midway along the forward edge of the wing. Dark-phase birds are dark chocolate-brown all over, except for white wing feathers on the undersides, and the mostly white tail. The sexes can be told apart by the tail: Males have dark barring above the terminal band, while females have a single solid terminal band, with no barring. Rough-legged Hawks range in length from 19 to 24 inches, and have a wingspan of 48 to 56 inches.

## Habitat

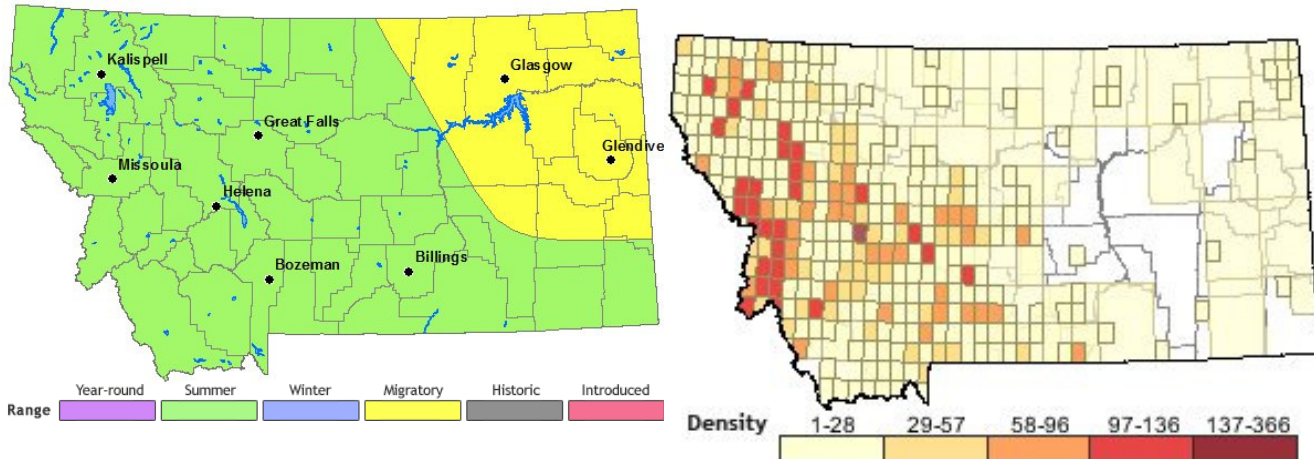
Rough-legged Hawks hunt over grasslands and agricultural land. They are often seen perched on utility poles and fence posts. Found in open areas of the Gallatin Valley (Skaar 1969).

# Ruby-crowned Kinglet - *Regulus calendula*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 17560

## General Description

Very small greenish songbird; 9 to 11 cm, 5.0 to 9.7 g. Both sexes olive green-gray on upperparts with 2 strong white wing-bars and broken, white eye-ring. Underparts dusky white. Male has scarlet crown patch, generally concealed (may also be orange, yellow, or absent). Female identical to male but lacks crown patch. Spring birds consistently duller than fall birds (Ingold and Wallace 1994).

## Habitat

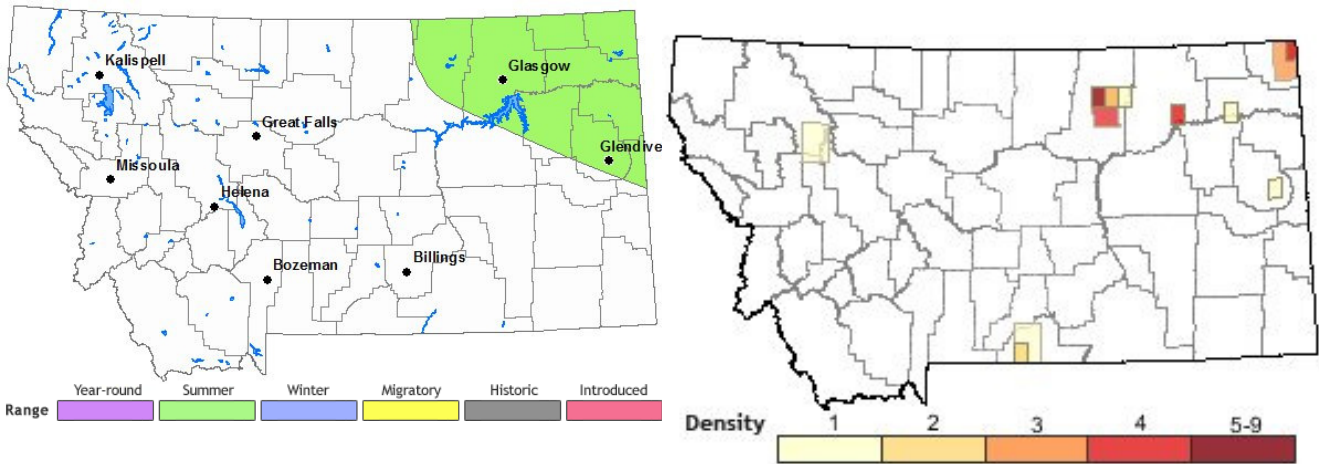
In the west, nests in spruce-fir, lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir forests. Spring and fall migration includes a broad range of habitats: coniferous and deciduous forests, floodplain forests, willow shrubs, abandoned homesteads in rangeland, old fields, and suburban yards (Ingold and Wallace 1994).

# Ruby-throated Hummingbird - *Archilochus colubris*



Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: SNA

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



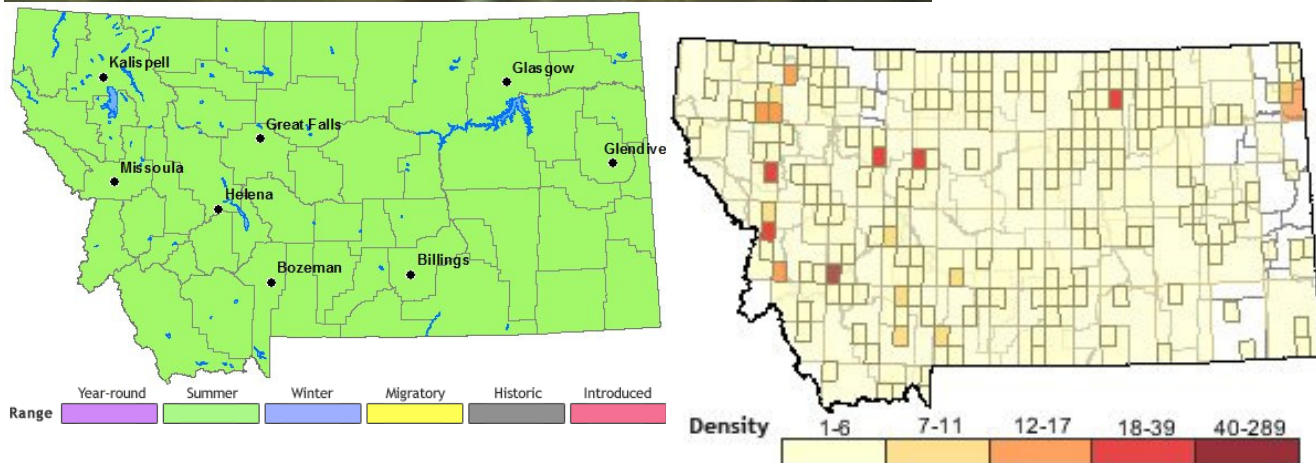
Number of Observations: 34

# Ruddy Duck - *Oxyura jamaicensis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1378

## General Description

The Ruddy Duck is a small, chunky, thick-necked duck with a large head, broad bill (blue in the breeding male), and long tail that often is cocked upward. The male has conspicuous white cheeks, especially when breeding, and the female and young have a single dark line across the light cheeks. The breeding male has bright reddish-brown upperparts and the non-breeding males, females, and young are mostly grayish-brown. Ruddy Ducks lack a contrastingly colored speculum.

## Habitat

Breeding is usually on overgrown, shallow marshes with abundant emergent vegetation and some open water. Non-breeding birds are found on large, generally deeper waters with silty/muddy bottoms (Johnsgard 1986). During migration in the Bozeman area, birds prefer open lakes (Skaar 1969).

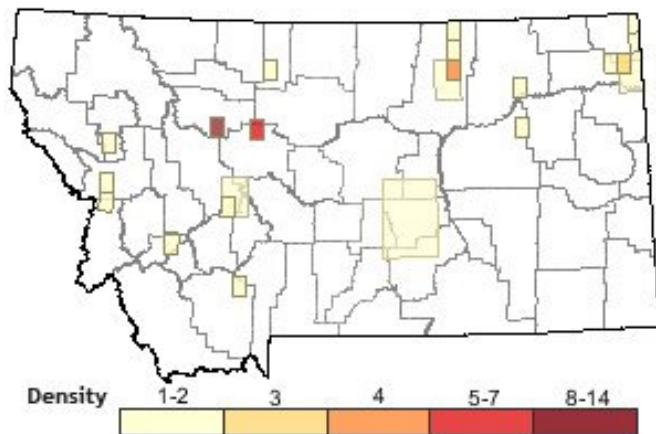


## Ruddy Turnstone - *Arenaria interpres*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 48

### Habitat

In migration, Ruddy Turnstones are likely to be found foraging on stubble fields or on sandy shorelines of lakes or reservoirs (Johnsgard 1986).

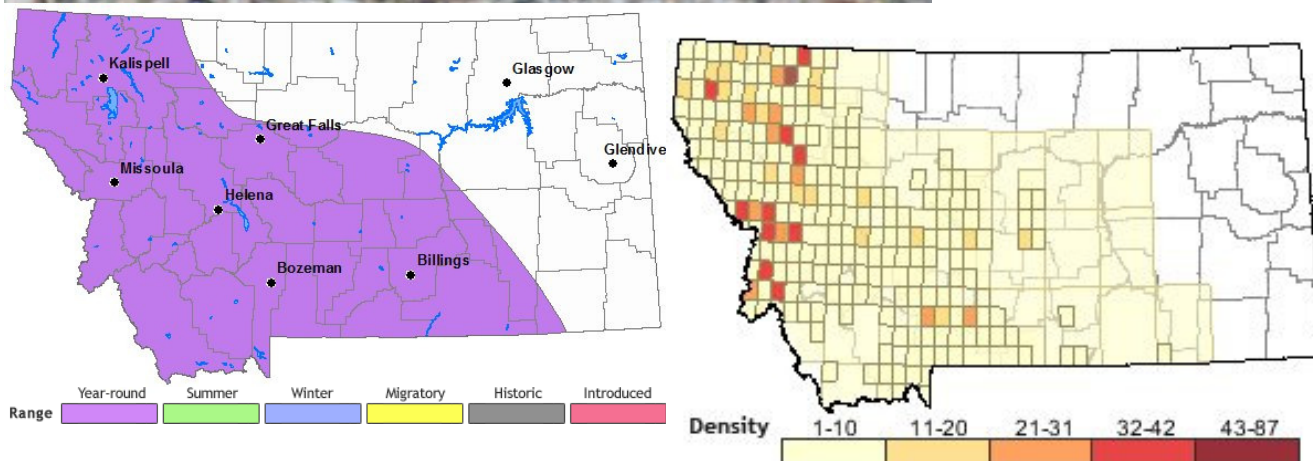
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## Ruffed Grouse - *Bonasa umbellus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2819

### General Description

Sexes similar; the long, fan-shaped tail has a broad black band just below the tip (in females, the band is often broken in the central tail feathers). Both sexes have black neck ruffs (less conspicuous in females), crested heads, and brownish bodies. Males have a small orange-red eye comb. Feathering reaches about halfway down the legs; in winter, birds develop conspicuous fringes (pectinations) on the sides of their toes. Two color phases exist: red (or brown) and gray. Adult males and females range from 16 to 19 inches in length; adult males range from 21 to 23 ounces in weight, and adult females, 18 to 21 ounces.

### Habitat

Ruffed Grouse are found in dense, brushy, mixed-conifer and deciduous tree cover, often along stream bottoms. In the Bozeman area they are mostly in deciduous thickets in the foothills and mountains; also in riparian areas to the lowest elevation (Skaar 1969). Mussehl (1971) says they inhabit the denser cover of mixed conifer and deciduous trees and brush, and are often along stream bottoms.

# Rufous Hummingbird - *Selasphorus rufus*



## Potential Species of Concern

Global Rank: G5

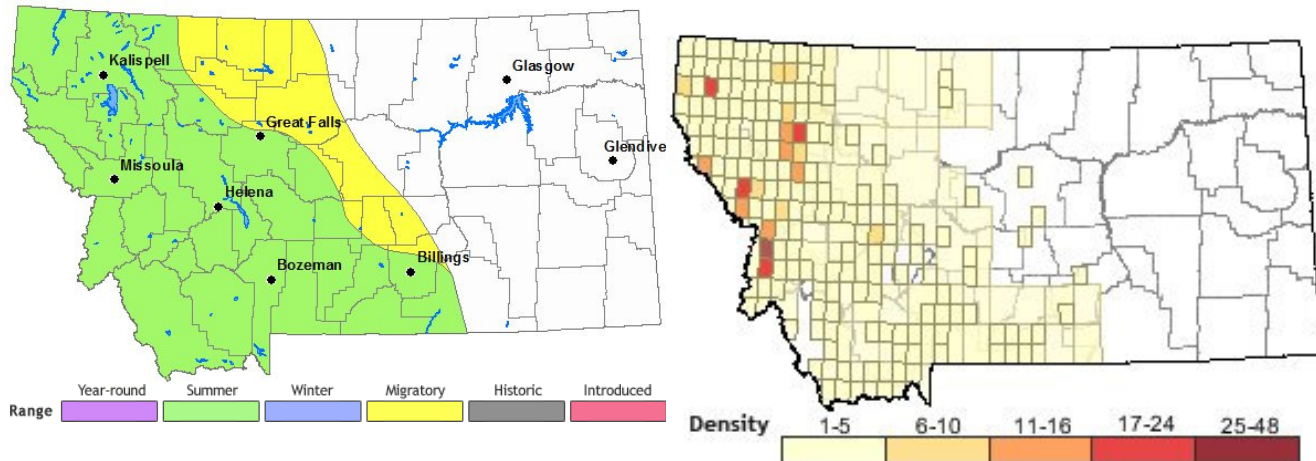
State Rank: S4B

### Agency Status

USFWS:

USFS:

BLM:



Number of Observations: 1027

## General Description

Widely known for its aggressive nature. Short-bodied, stubby and rusty in appearance. Sexually dimorphic. Male's dorsal plumage is a non-iridescent rusty red. Female and juvenile dorsal plumage is a green iridescence. Male gorget is brilliant orange-scarlet. Female throat varies from clear or streaked with bronze-green, to multiple scarlet spots or large central gorget patch of male-like colors. Male's wings emit a metallic whine. Juveniles resemble females with green iridescent backs and white-tipped rectrices (Calder 1993).

## Habitat

Generally cool environments. Principally secondary succession communities and openings, forested and brushy habitats of the Pacific northwest through the Gulf of Alaska coastal forests and inland to northern Rocky Mountains. Typically nests in second growth and mature forests (Calder 1993).

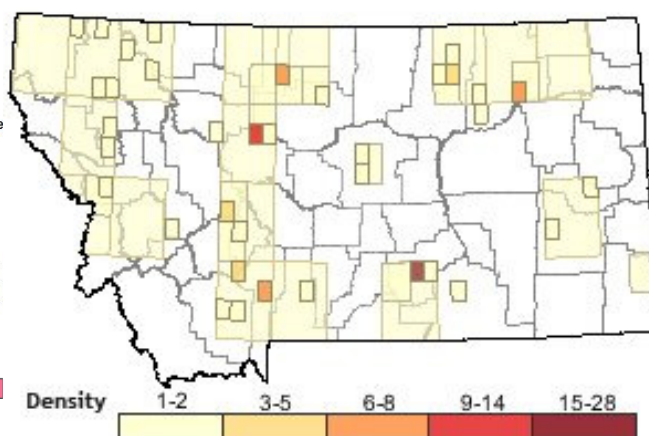


## Rusty Blackbird - *Euphagus carolinus*



**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 154

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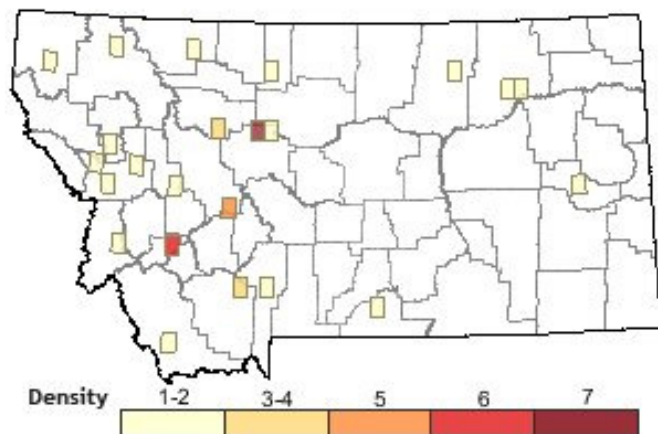


# Sabine's Gull - *Xema sabini*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 51

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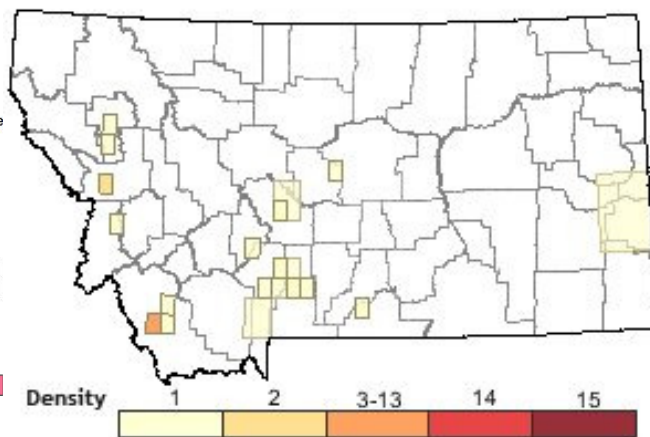
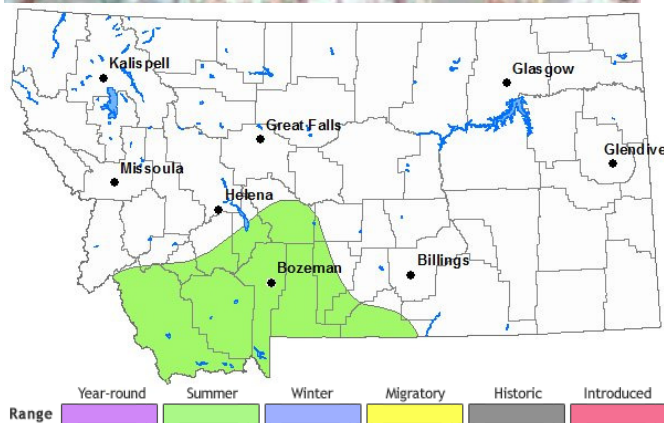
# Sage Sparrow - *Artemisiospiza belli*



## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 33

## General Description

Sage Sparrows have a gray-brown head, white eye ring, a white lore spot or eyebrow, and a broad white whisker stripe above a dark whisker stripe. The back is buffy-brown with dusky streaks. There are two pale wing bars (not conspicuous), the underparts are white, with a central dark spot and dusky streaks on the sides. Juveniles are duller and more heavily streaked, and the lore spot sometimes is indistinct. Subspecies *belli* of western California is smaller and darker than are subspecies *canescens* and *nevadensis* (Johnson and Marten 1992).

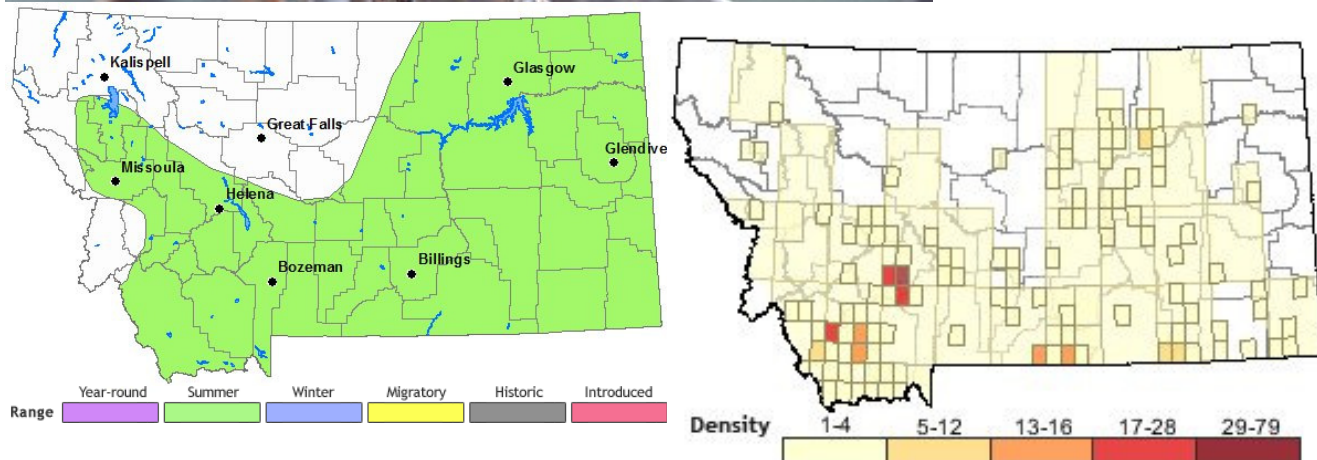
# Sage Thrasher - *Oreoscoptes montanus*



## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 614

## General Description

The Sage Thrasher is unique in being the only thrasher in the genus *Oreoscoptes*. Genetic work indicates this species may be more closely related to the mockingbirds (*Mimus*) than to other thrashers (*Toxostoma*). Its long, melodious, mockingbird-like song, earned it the original name of Mountain Mockingbird. It is the smallest thrasher and is a sagebrush obligate species.

## Habitat

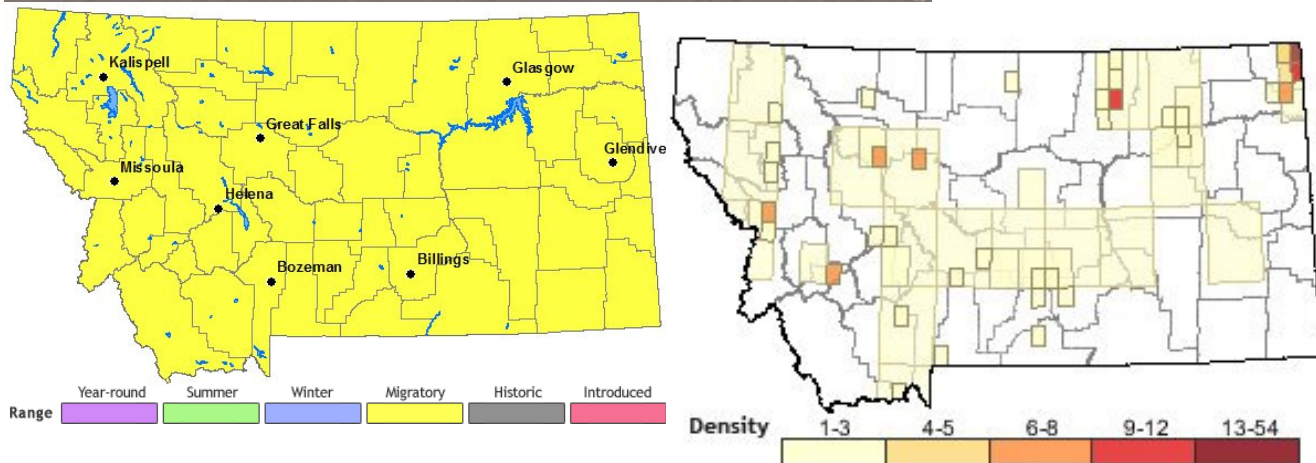
The species is considered a sagebrush obligate in Montana (it is known to use black greasewood in Utah and Nevada and bitterbrush in Washington). Sage Thrasher abundance is generally positively correlated with the amount of sage cover and negatively correlated with grass cover.

## Sanderling - *Calidris alba*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 226

### Habitat

Migrants are usually seen around larger lakes, especially those with wave-swept sandy beaches (Johnsgard 1986).



# Sandhill Crane - *Grus canadensis*



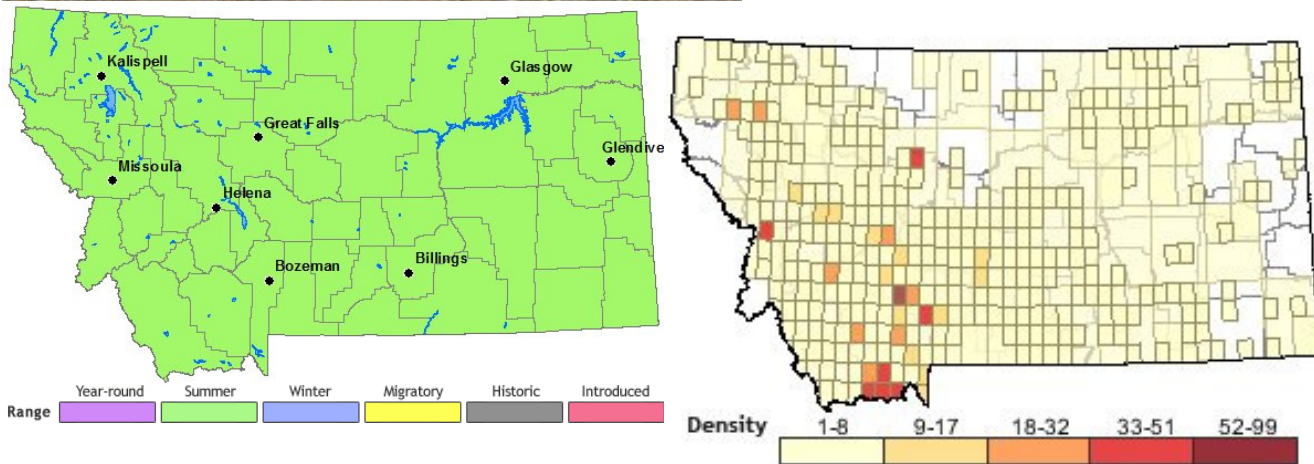
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B,S2N

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2346

## General Description

A tall, long-necked, long-legged bird with a clump of feathers that droops over the rump; flies with neck and legs fully extended; adults are gray overall (may have brownish-red staining resulting from preening with muddy bill), with a whitish chin, cheek, and upper throat, and dull red skin on the crown and lores (lacking in immatures); immatures have a pale to tawny, feathered head and neck, and a gray body with brownish-red mottling; average length around 104 cm, wingspan 185 cm.

## Habitat

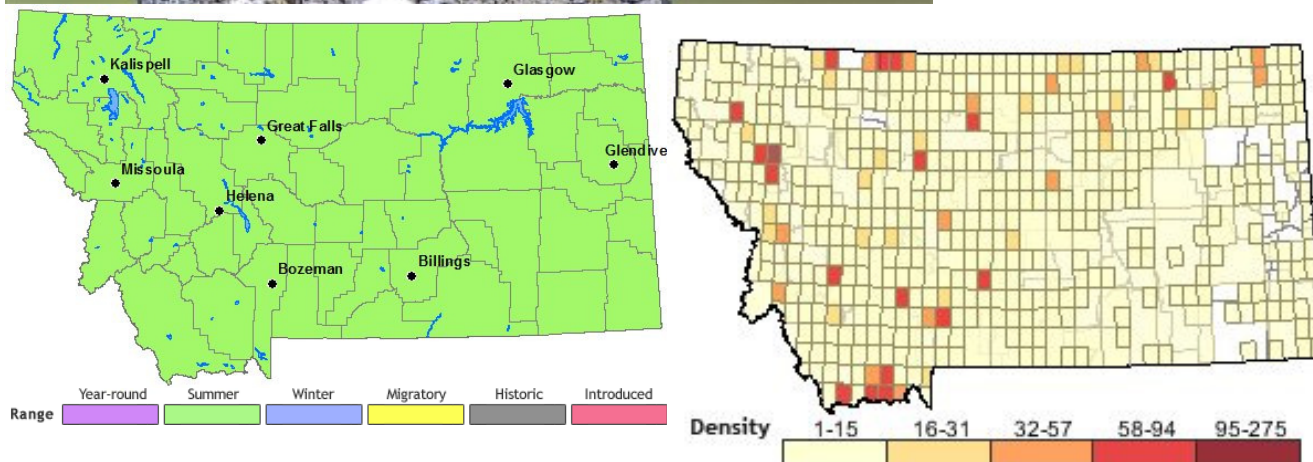
Open grasslands and freshwater marshes (Tacha et al. 1992). In Bozeman area, found along small, valley streams bordered by extensive moist meadows (Skaar 1969). In Rockies, associated with Beaver impoundments (Johnsgard 1986).

# Savannah Sparrow - *Passerculus sandwichensis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 7099

## General Description

A highly variable species (or may comprise multiple species) that generally has yellow lores and often has a yellowish eyebrow; pale crown stripe (indistinct in southern California and often in juveniles); dark to buffy whisker stripe; upperparts usually streaked (not so in some parts of southern California); short notched tail; streaked sides and breast (sometimes with a central spot); whitish belly and undertail; pale pinkish or straw colored legs and feet (most of range) (Ridgway 1901). The numerous subspecies vary in size, coloration, bill size, and extent of streaking. Overall length is 11 to 14 cm, mass about 15 to 20 g. When flushed, runs through the grass or makes short, quick, erratic flights. VOCALIZATIONS: song is an insect-like "tip tip tip seeee saaaaay". Calls include a slight tseep or tsip.

## Habitat

The Savannah Sparrow is widespread and abundant in open habitats throughout North America. During the breeding season its persistent buzzy song can be heard in agricultural fields, meadows, marshes, coastal grasslands, and tundra. During spring and fall migration it can be found in open fields, roadsides, dune vegetation, coastal marshes, edges of sewage ponds and other ponds in open country. It is rarely found in open woodlands (Wheelwright and Rising 1993).

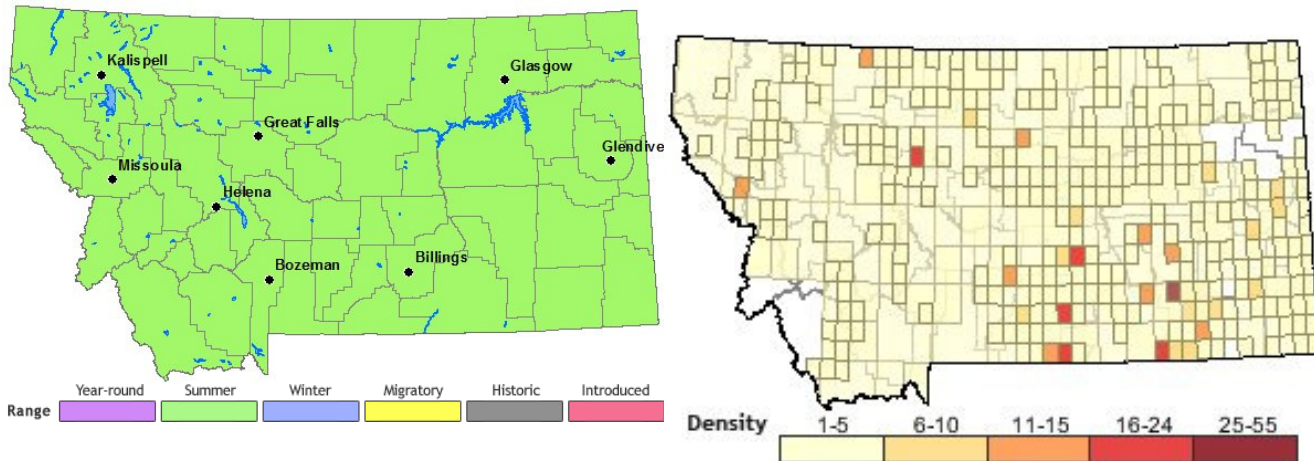


# Say's Phoebe - *Sayornis saya*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1270

## General Description

Say's Phoebe is a medium-sized flycatcher: length about 17 cm, body mass 21 to 22 g. Seasonally and sexually monomorphic. Adult upperparts pale brown gray, head and hindneck darker; tail brownish black and cinnamon colored belly and undertail coverts (Schukman and Wolf 1998).

## Habitat

Open country, prairie ranches, sagebrush plains, badlands, dry barren foothills, canyons, and borders of deserts (Schukman and Wolf 1998).

## Scarlet Tanager - *Piranga olivacea*

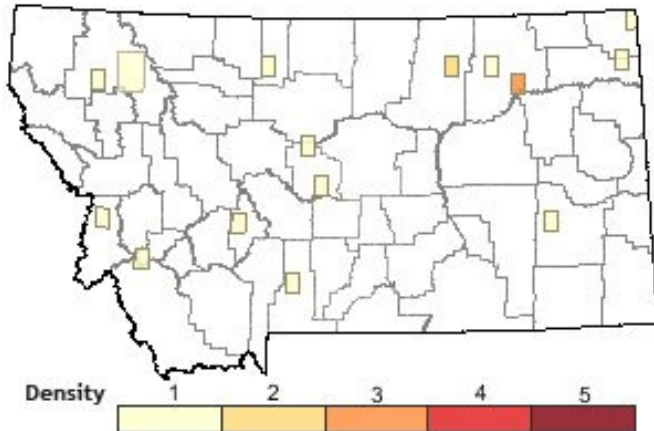


### Accidental Species

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

### Agency Status

**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 18

### General Description

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In the spring and early summer, the male is scarlet, with black wings and tail. During the late summer and fall, splotchy green is evident within the red as the molt to the yellow-green winter plumage begins. Measurements: length 17 cm, mass 23.5 to 33 g. The female is dull greenish above with yellowish below. Wings are dark brownish to blackish. The immature male resembles the adult female, but is brighter below, with brownish primaries that are retained throughout the first summer. Wing coverts are black. Fledglings are olive green above with dark white streaks below. Wings are dark brownish or blackish. Some show faint wing bars. An illustration appears in NGS (1987).

**NEST:** a small, loose, flat saucer-shaped nest of twigs, rootlets, coarse grass, and weed stems. Inside lined with finer grasses, weed stems, or pine needles. Eggs sometimes can be seen through the bottom.

**EGGS:** pale blue to pale green with irregularly dotted, spotted, blotched browns. These markings are often concentrated at the large end. Sources for this section are Senesac (1993), Isler and Isler (1987), Terres (1980), Harrison (1975), Prescott (1965), and Bent (1958).

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# Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - *Tyrannus forficatus*



**Accidental Species**

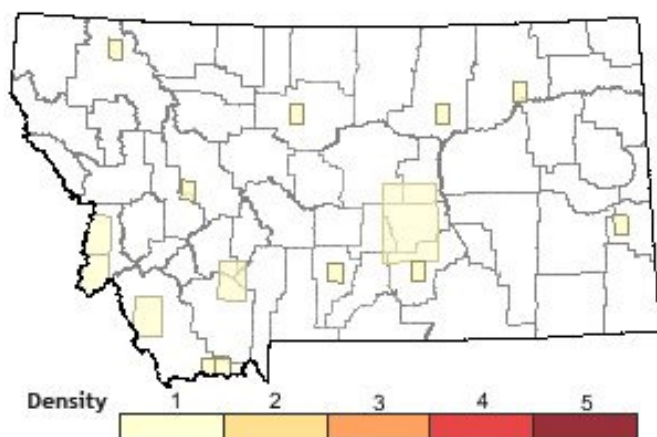
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 15

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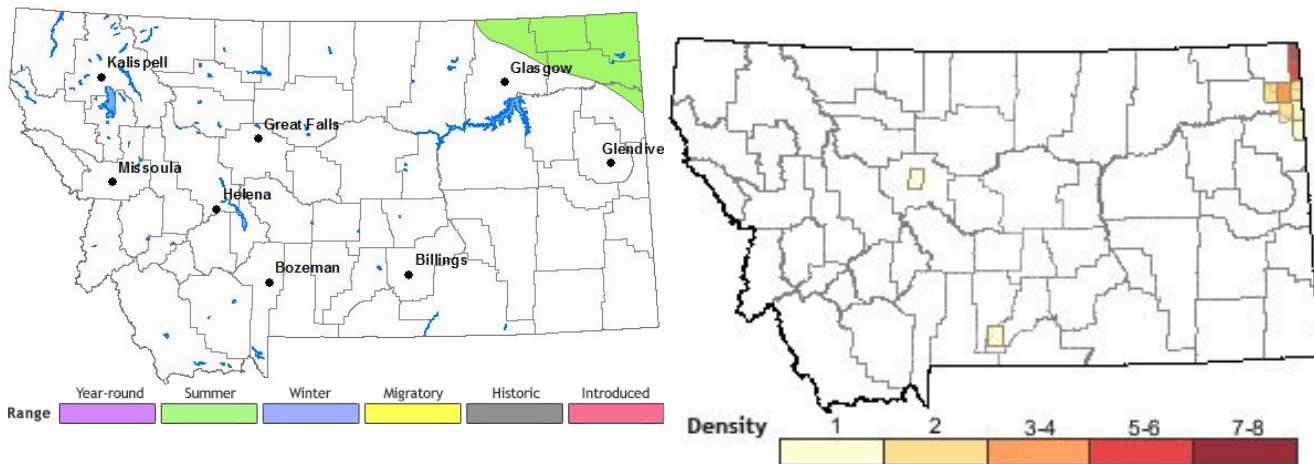
# Sedge Wren - *Cistothorus platensis*



**Species of Concern**

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 26

## General Description

Plumage of the adult is warm and pale brown overall, giving the bird a "dull, plain-faced" appearance (Vickery 1983). The deep brown wing coverts and short tail are barred, the flanks are buff-orange, the chin, throat and center belly are dull white, and the undertail coverts are plain buff. The crown is "finely, somewhat obscurely, streaked with tan and dark brown" (Vickery 1983), and the tail is typically cocked over the back. The sexes have similar plumages, with males about a gram heavier than females (species weight ranges from 7 to 10 grams) (Taylor et al. 1983, Herkert et al. 2001). Juveniles are similar to adults except that the streaking is less conspicuous on the head and neck and more conspicuous on the back, with more of a buff coloration on the throat and abdomen than the adults (Forbush 1929, Walkinshaw 1935).

The song of males is a dry, staccato chattering "*chap chap chap chapper-rrrrr*" (Peterson 1980). Among individuals, the song's introduction is stereotyped, whereas the trill is highly variable (Kroodsma and Verner 1978). The call note is "*churr churr*," "*chap churr*," or "*chap*" (Bent 1948, Peterson 1980). Sedge Wrens frequently sing at night (Vickery 1983).

## Habitat

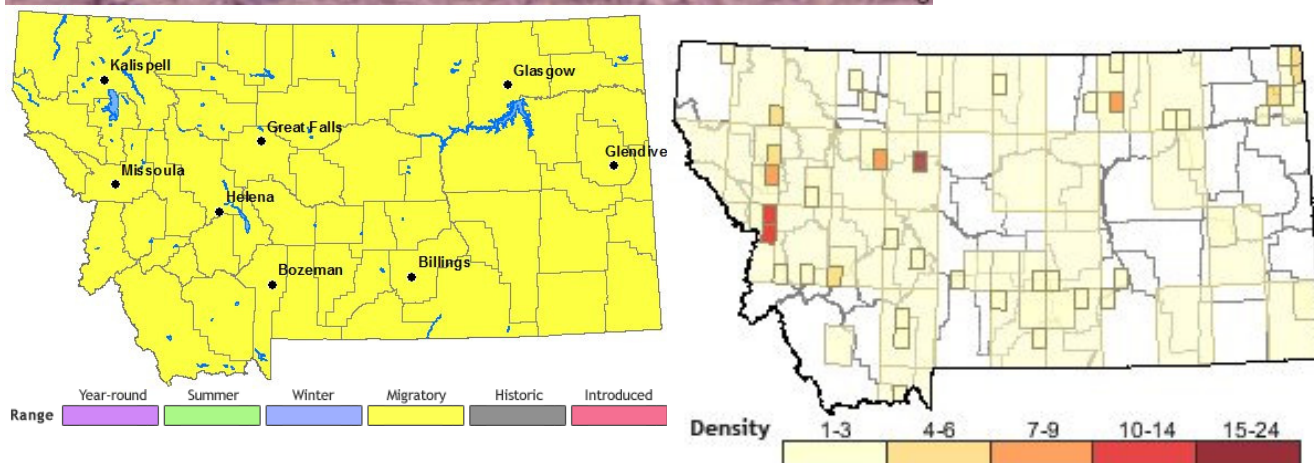
No specific information exists, but appropriate wetland habitat is present in the areas of the state in which the species has been recorded.

# Semipalmated Plover - *Charadrius semipalmatus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 230

## Habitat

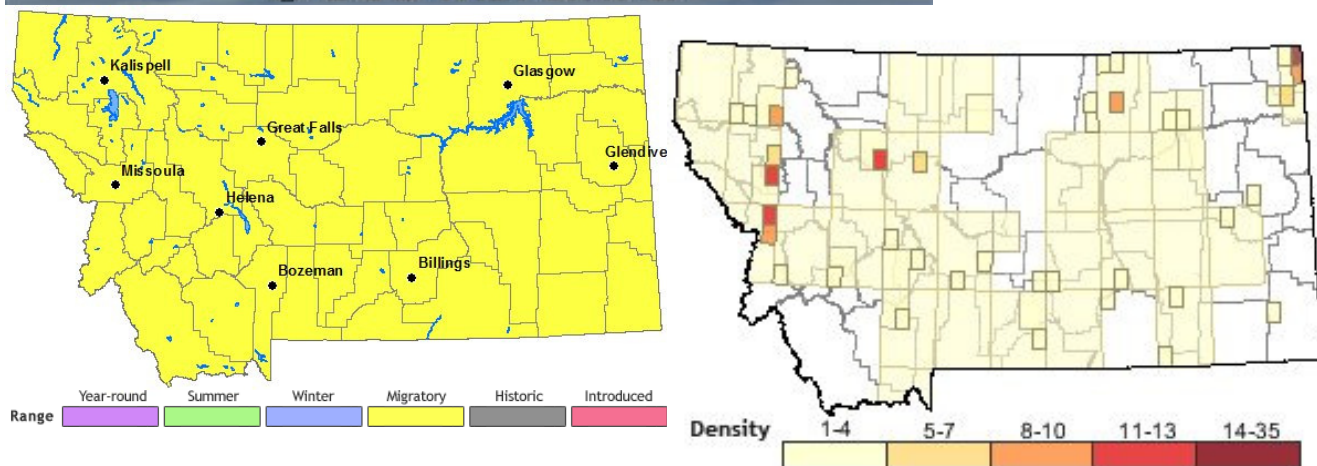
Migrating birds are normally observed on open, sandy or gravelly habitats along rivers or beaches (Johnsgard 1986).

# Semipalmated Sandpiper - *Calidris pusilla*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 263

## Habitat

Semipalmated Sandpipers occur on wet and dry mudflats (Johnsgard 1986).

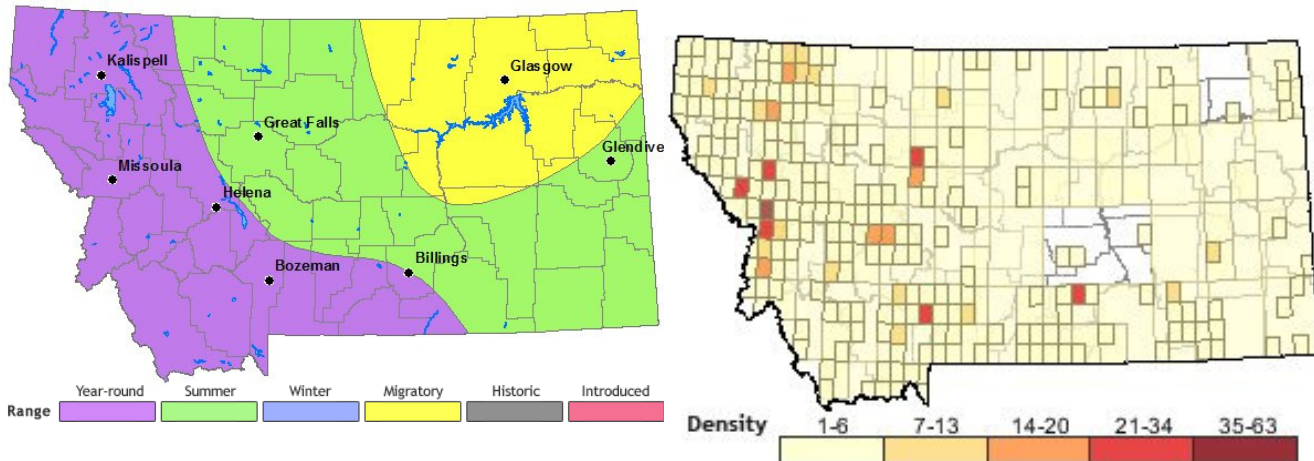


# Sharp-shinned Hawk - *Accipiter striatus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1334

## General Description

Adults are dark grayish-blue above, with a very dark crown. The tail is white-tipped with broad gray bars. Underparts are white with rusty barring from the throat to the legs, and white under the base of the tail. The legs are yellow and the iris of the eye is red. Adult females are similar to males, only duskier. Immature Sharp-shinned Hawks are brown above, with rufous (rusty red) coloring on the neck. Underneath, they are dull white with distinct brown spots from the neck to the legs. Immature Sharp-shinned Hawks have yellow legs and yellow eyes. In flight, Sharp-shinned Hawks exhibit typical accipiter flight of alternately flapping, then gliding. Sharp-shinned Hawks range in length from 10 to 14 inches, and have a wingspan of 18 to 24 inches, with the males smaller than the females.

## Habitat

They most commonly use heavy timber, especially even-aged stands of conifers, but sometimes hunt in open areas. Bozeman area: in summer seen in wooded areas of valley, but more numerous in the foothills and lower reaches of the montane forest; in winter it occurs in forests and thickets of the valley (Skaar 1969).

# Sharp-tailed Grouse - *Tympanuchus phasianellus*



## Species of Concern

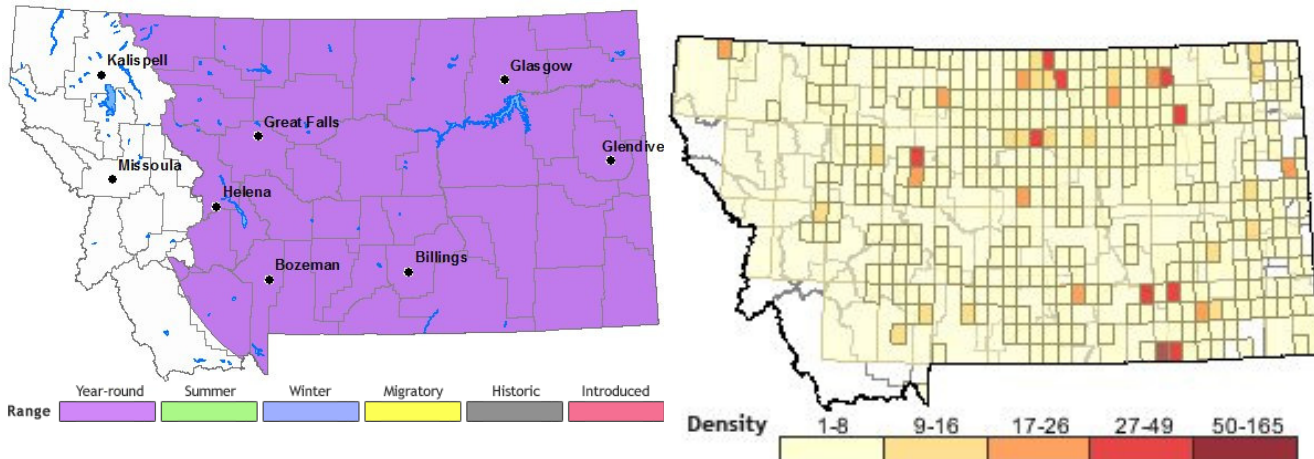
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S1,S4

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2477

## General Description

Sexes are similar, although males have inconspicuous yellow eye combs and pale violet air sacs on the neck. Both sexes have feathered legs and upper parts mottled with white, buff, brown, and black. The wings have conspicuous white spots, and the breast and flanks have V-shaped brown markings on a snow-white background. Adult males and females average from 16.5 to 18.5 inches in length; adult males average 33 ounces and adult females 29 ounces in weight. Populations west of the Continental Divide that are thought to have been extirpated were, until recently, believed to be a smaller subspecies, the Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus columbianus*). These populations tended to have grayer plumage, more pronounced spotting on the throat, and narrower markings on the underparts (Hoffman and Thomas 2007). However, nuclear and mitochondrial DNA of populations east and west of the Continental Divide overlap almost completely, indicating that Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse likely never inhabited western Montana and that the declines observed in that region were in populations genetically similar to those on the Great Plains (Spaulding et al. 2006; Wood et al. 2010).

## Habitat

The habitat is primarily grasslands interspersed with shrub and brush-filled coulees. They prefer stands of inter-mixed tree and shrub grasslands. With high population, they spread into islands of native grassland, usually along drainages surrounded by grainfields. Sharp-tailed Grouse persist only on native bunchgrass-shrub stands. In Idaho, Saab and Marks (1992) found birds selected big sage habitat types during summer. They appeared to prefer range habitats that were in good condition.

Until recently, Sharp-tailed Grouse in Montana were found west of the Continental Divide in larger mountain valleys with extensive native bunchgrass-shrub stands. However, they have now apparently been extirpated, or nearly extirpated, from this historic range ([Hoffman and Thomas 2007](#)).

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# Sharp-tailed Sandpiper - *Calidris acuminata*



**Accidental Species**

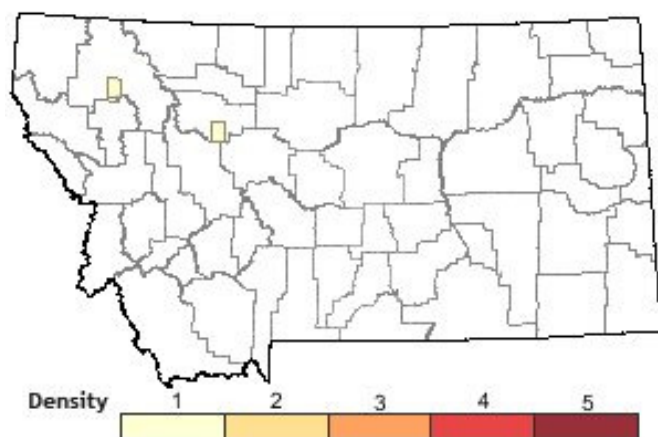
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2

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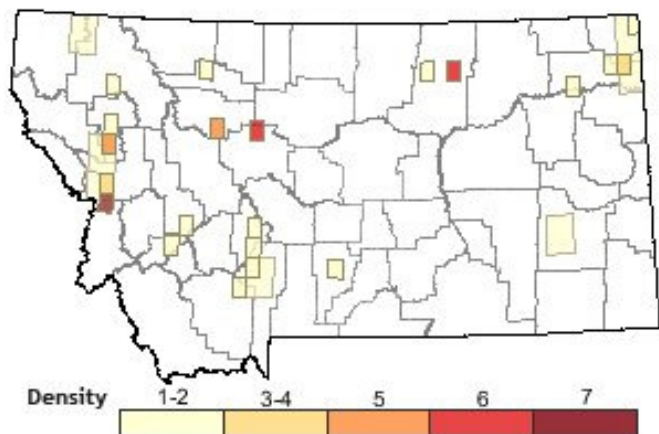


# Short-billed Dowitcher - *Limnodromus griseus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 72

## Habitat

In migration, they are found in grassy marshes.

# Short-eared Owl - *Asio flammeus*



## Potential Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5

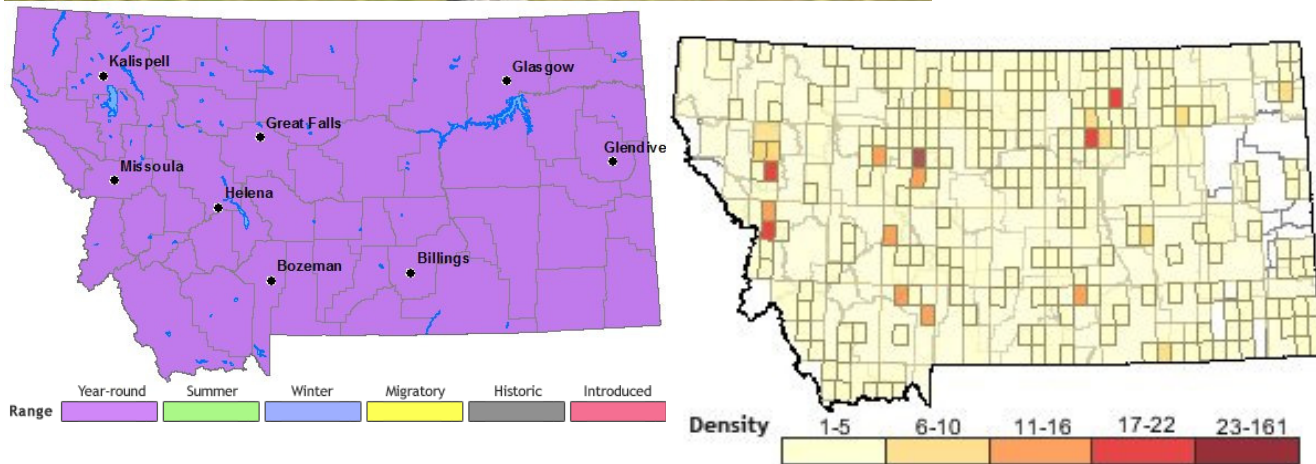
**State Rank:** S4

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1144

## General Description

Short-eared Owls are a small to medium-sized owl. Published lengths range from 37 to 39 centimeters (Cramp 1985) to 34 to 42 centimeters (Mikkola 1983), with females slightly larger than males and considerably heavier, averaging 411 grams compared to 350 grams for males (Mikkola 1983). They are excellent flyers with long wings (95 to 110 centimeters) (Cramp 1985), and light wing-loading (0.333 gram per centimeter squared) (Clark 1975). There is little difference in wing length between the sexes (Clark and Ward 1974). The back and upper wing surfaces are tawny-brown to buff-colored with heavy but indistinct streaking. The ventral surfaces are much lighter, with bold, vertical brown streaking on the breast, and a pair of barely visible ear tufts close together at the top of the facial disc. The belly is pale, lightly streaked; the wings are long and have a buffy patch beyond the wrist above and a dark patch at the base of the primaries below; the dark facial disc contrasts with yellow eyes; and the legs and feet are feathered. Mature males are bright white on the underwing, while mature females show somewhat more buff coloration (Bent 1938, Village 1987). It is, nonetheless, difficult to sex or age these birds in the field. Females are generally darker than males but young birds are also darker than older ones (Mikkola 1983), thus a young male may be darker than an old female. Both sexes have a distinct, black carpal bar and dark wingtips. Juveniles possess full adult plumage by October of the first year (Bent 1938, Cramp 1985). The facial disc is circular and whitish with dark areas around the bright, yellow eyes, black bill. Recently fledged and juvenile Short-eared Owls show much darker coloration overall and a much darker facial disc which whitens with age. The Short-eared Owl gets its common name from the small ear tufts over the eyes. These inconspicuous tufts are part of the facial disc and are generally not seen except when female is in camouflage position on nest or erected when the bird is annoyed or alert. They may possibly aid in making birds more cryptic when in vegetation by breaking the line of the circular facial disc.

The bird is generally silent but does vocalize in courtship (a low, repeated, hooting "voo, hoo, hoo, hoo", or in conjunction with defensive behavior or annoyance, yaps or barks). The call is given approximately 15 times during courtship flight and is also accompanied by an audible wing-clap and dive between calls. Young give a food-begging call ("bssssid") that apparently aids adults in locating them from the time they leave the nest until after fledging.

Adults may squeal while feigning injury during broken-wing acts to distract intruders from nests or young. Both young and adults will clack their bills when annoyed or in defense. Apparently, no data exist on the use of broadcasting tape-recorded vocalizations for detection or monitoring purposes.

## **Habitat**

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Open grasslands, plains, and agricultural areas with suitable vegetation and food.

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# Siberian Accentor - *Prunella montanella*



**Accidental Species**

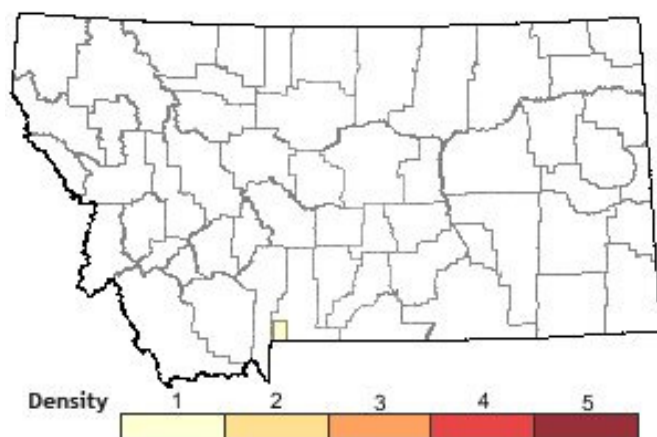
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

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# Smith's Longspur - *Calcarius pictus*



**Accidental Species**

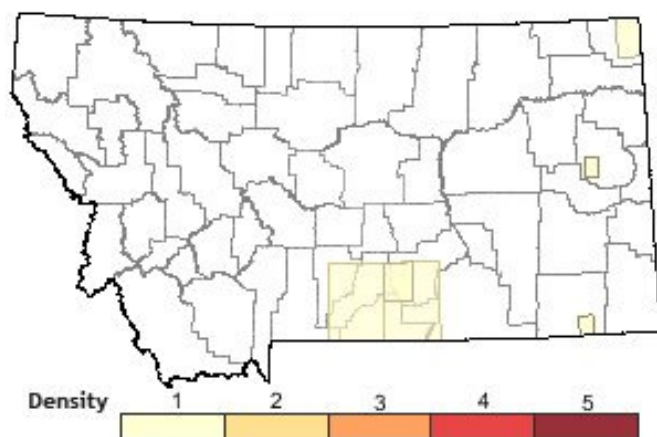
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 6

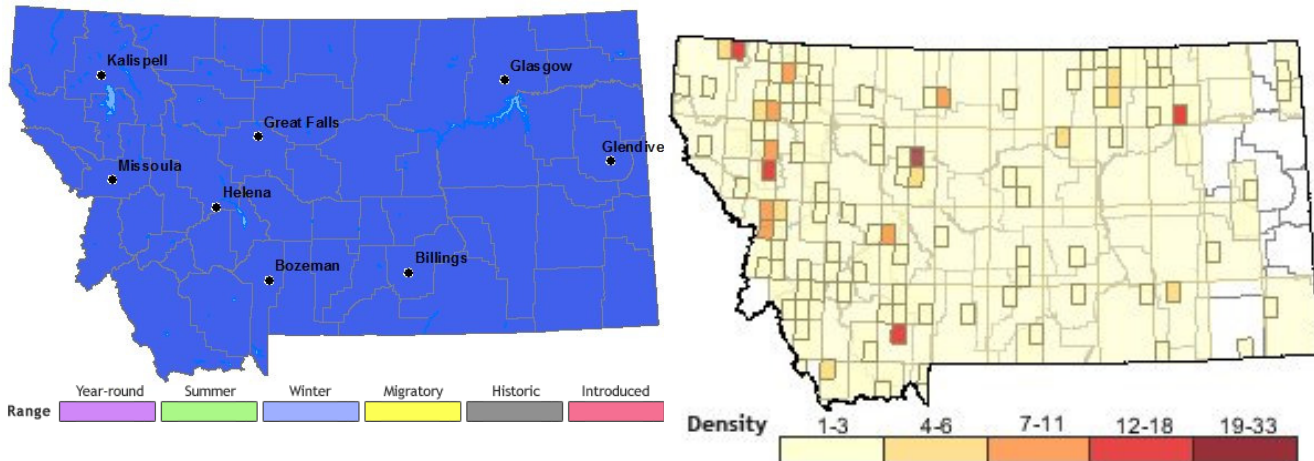
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# Snow Bunting - *Plectrophenax nivalis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5N

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 545

## General Description

Medium-sized, sexually dimorphic songbird with white underparts and black-and-white wings. Breeding male is entirely black and white, with white head, nape, breast, belly, rump, and outer tail feathers and black back and central tail feathers; black-and-white wings. Breeding females have wings and tail like the breeding male but are rufous streaked with gray on the back; crown, lores, and auriculars pale rufous; underparts white with pale rufous wash on flanks, and band across breast. Fall and winter male and female like breeding female (Lyon and Montgomerie 1995).

## Habitat

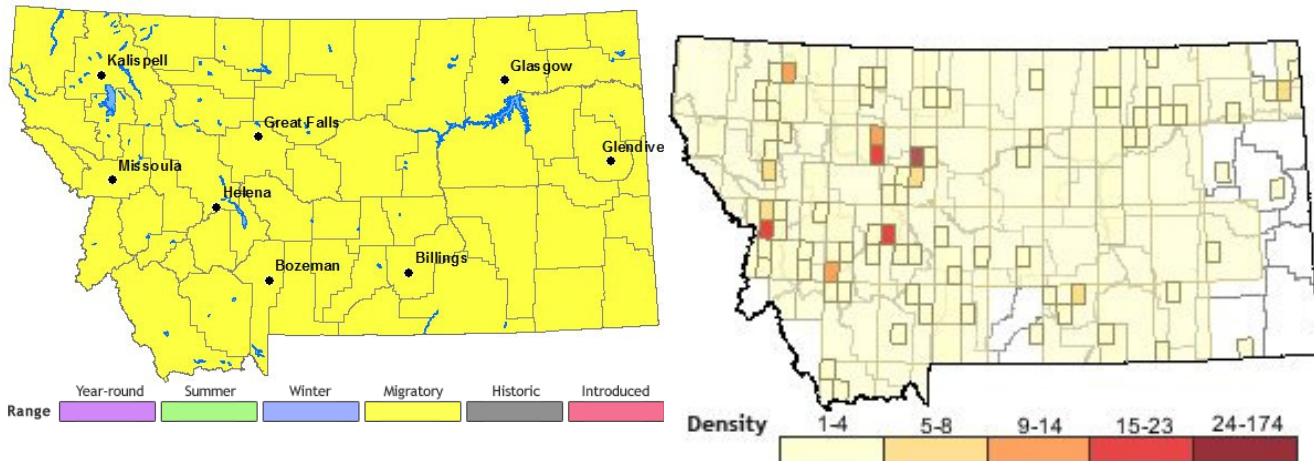
Breeding range: rocky areas (for nesting) in or near vegetated tundra (for feeding). Winter range: open weedy and grassy fields, grain stubbles, shore; after heavy snowfall, conspicuous on roadsides and in farmyards. Attracted to debris piled up by wind on shores of lakes and rivers (Lyon and Montgomerie 1995).

# Snow Goose - *Chen caerulescens*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4N

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 606

## General Description

One of the most abundant species of waterfowl in the world. A medium-sized goose, with a distinctive blackish "grinning patch" or "smile." Total mean length: male 756.2 mm, female 728.9 mm; body mass of male 2,485 g, of female 2,181 g. Plumage dimorphic with light (primarily white) and dark (gray-brown) morphs. Sexes alike though male slightly larger; no seasonal variation. Adult white morph, completely white except for gray primary-coverts, and black primaries; occasionally rusty-orange staining on head and upper neck. Feet and legs dark pink; bill rose-pink with pale-pink or white nail. Adult blue morph, similar soft parts, but body largely dark gray-brown except for white head and foreneck. Upper wing-coverts gray, contrasting with blackish remiges and dark-brown mantle that is veiled with black and tinged blue; hind neck dark gray; rump pale gray; upper tail-coverts gray or white, contrasting with dark-gray tail that is broadly edged and tipped whitish; underparts varying in amount of dark brown and gray (Mowbray et al. 2000).

## Habitat

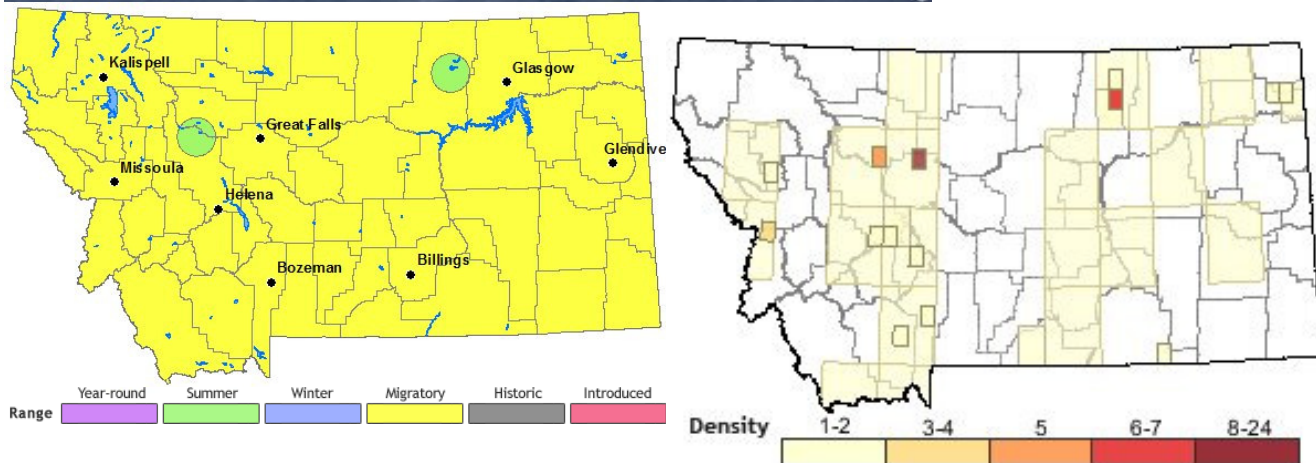
Breeds colonially in subarctic and arctic tundra near the coast on relatively featureless terrain, near ponds, shallow lakes, streams, or islands in braided deltas. Winter range includes coastal areas, estuarine marshes, marine inlets and bays, shallow tidal waters and coastal freshwater and brackish marshes; inland, on wet grasslands, freshwater marshes, coastal prairies and cultivated fields. Migration routes bring them into northern Montana (Freezeout Lake) as a staging area. From staging areas they may follow several routes of migration. During migration Snow Geese use grain fields, lakes, and rivers (Mowbray et al. 2000).

# Snowy Egret - *Egretta thula*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 79

## General Description

A small white wading bird with a slim, pointed, black bill; long legs are all black or black with yellow-green on the back side (juveniles); toes yellow; breeding adult has long plumes on head, neck, and back; lores yellow, turning red in adults during breeding season; average length 61 cm, wingspan 104 cm.

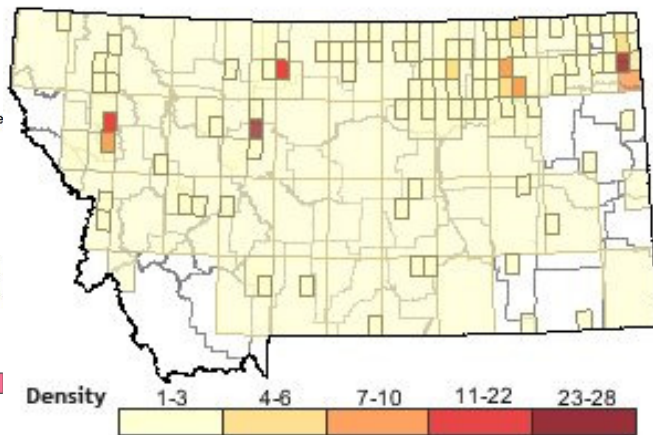
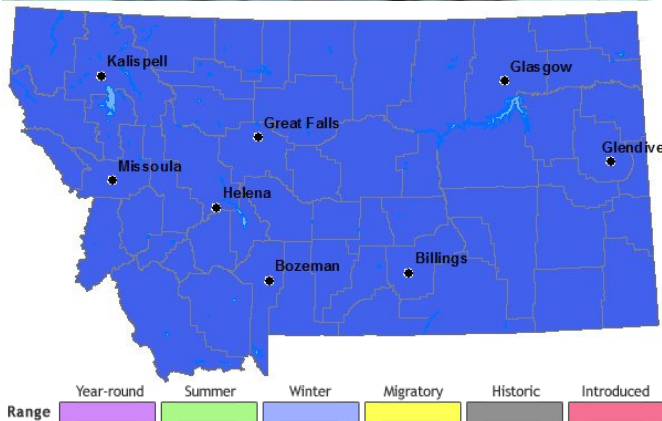


# Snowy Owl - *Bubo scandiacus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 423

## General Description

Round-headed, eyes yellow, bill black. Feet heavily feathered. Lacks true facial disk. A distinctive white owl with varying degrees of dark brown spotting and barring. Adult males are almost pure white, although they have up to three tail bands. Adult females are distinctly barred throughout, although white still dominates. Females usually have from four to six tail bands. Immatures are very heavily barred throughout, and dark spotting may dominate the overall plumage. Intensity of dark spotting varies with the sex of the immatures; females are the darkest. An easy owl to recognize. **SIZE:** 20 to 27 inches. **WEIGHT:** 59 to 70 ounces (3.5 to 4.5 pounds). **VOICE:** The Snowy Owl is virtually silent during nonbreeding seasons. During the breeding season males have a loud, booming "hoo, hoo" given as a territorial advertisement or mating call. Females rarely hoot. The attack call is a guttural "kruff-quh-quh-quk". When excited it may emit a loud "hooo-uh, hooo-uh, hooo-uh, wuh-wuh-wuh". Other sounds are dog-like barks, rattling cackles, shrieks, hissing, and bill-snapping. Nestlings "cheep" up to 2 weeks of age, then hiss and squeal.

## Habitat

Breeds on Arctic tundra. Winters primarily on open plains, and in coastal and agricultural areas.

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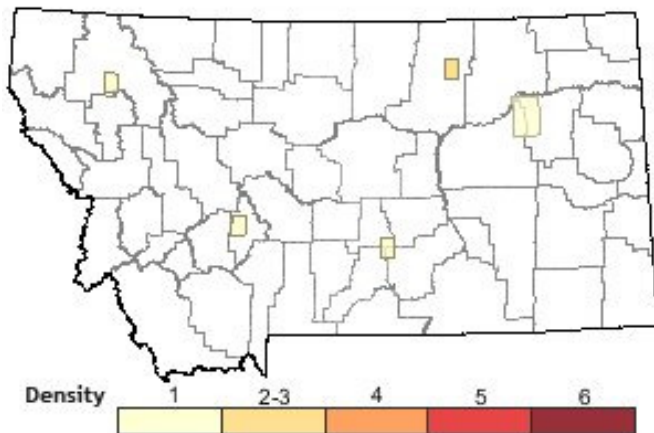
# Snowy Plover - *Charadrius nivosus*



**Accidental Species**

**Global Rank:** G3  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 7

## General Description

A pale plover with a sand-colored dorsum, white venter, thin dark bill, dark or grayish feet and legs, and (in adults) a partial breast band, a dark ear patch, and dark bar on the forecrown. During the breeding season, dark marks tend to be darker in males than in females. Nonbreeding plumage is duller and the differences between the sexes are not so evident. Immatures are pale buff mixed with grayish white on the upperparts (dark markings typical of adult plumage are lacking or scarcely evident), and they have light edges on the dorsal body feathers, resulting in a scaly pattern. Total length averages about 16 cm (Peterson 1990).

**EGGS:** short, ovate, nonglossy, and a buffy-sandy or olive color, spotted with black and fewer spots of gray; size about 32 mm by 23 mm.

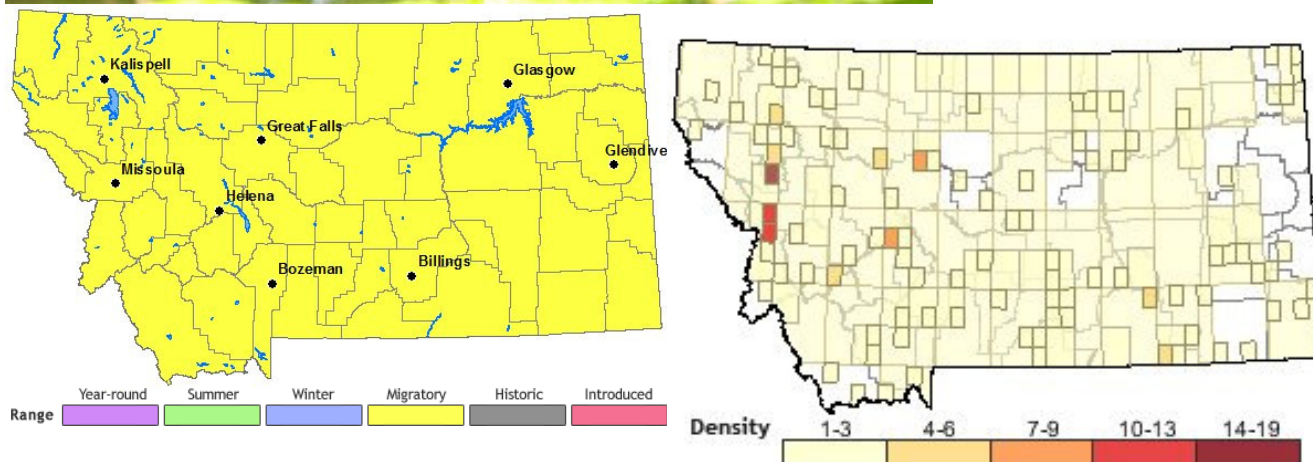
**VOCALIZATIONS:** Calls include a low "krut" and a soft whistled "ku-wheet".

## Solitary Sandpiper - *Tringa solitaria*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 348

### Habitat

In the Bozeman area they occur on the edges of brushy sloughs and occasionally on open mudflats (Skaar 1969).

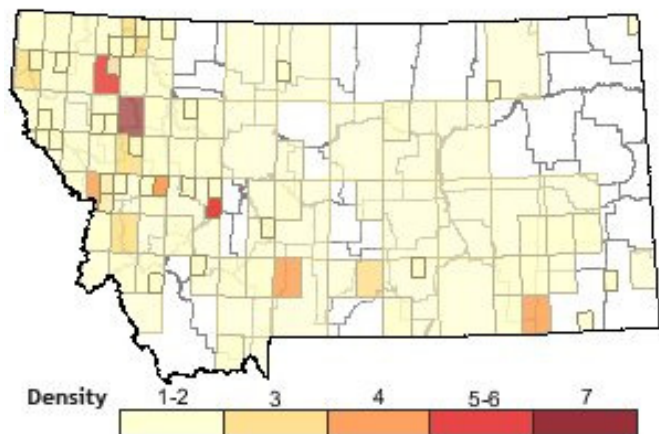


# Solitary Vireo - *Vireo solitarius*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNR

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 185

## General Description

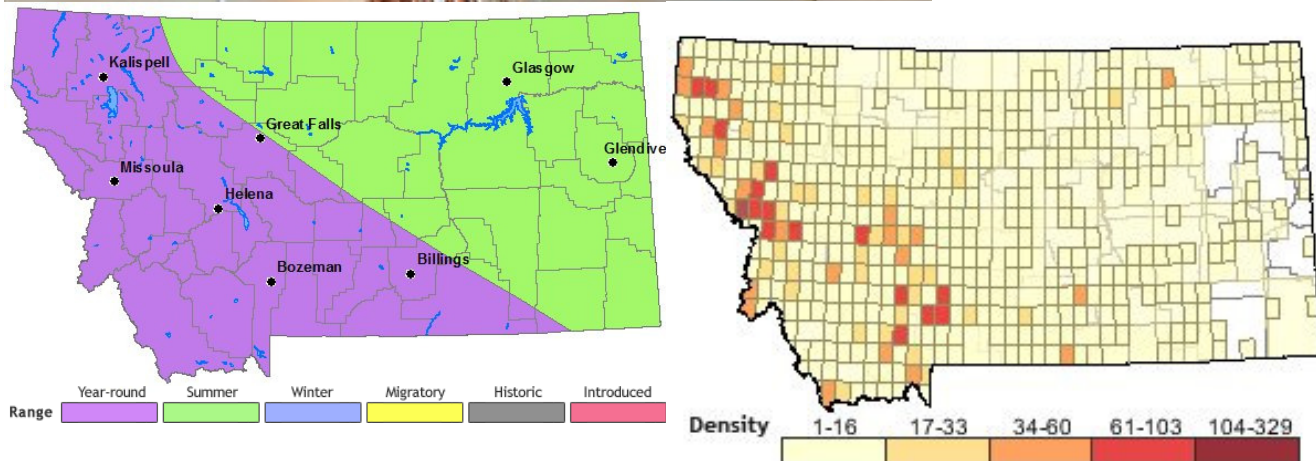
Previously recognized taxa now split into Cassin's Vireo in the western part of the state, Plumbeous Vireo in the southeast part of the state, and the Blue-headed Vireo that is a Rare Migrant in eastern Montana.

# Song Sparrow - *Melospiza melodia*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 8679

## General Description

Size and plumage darkness are geographically variable (large and dark in Alaska, small and pale in deserts); long rounded tail, pumped in flight; grayish eyebrow and broad dark stripe bordering whitish throat; upperparts usually streaked; underparts whitish with streaked sides and breast and usually a central dark spot on the breast (young have finer streaks and may lack the spot); pinkish legs and feet; 13 to 16 cm (Peterson 1990).

## Habitat

Wide range of forest, shrub, and riparian habitats, but limited to those adjacent to fresh water more often in arid environments (Arcese et al. 2002).

## Sora - *Porzana carolina*



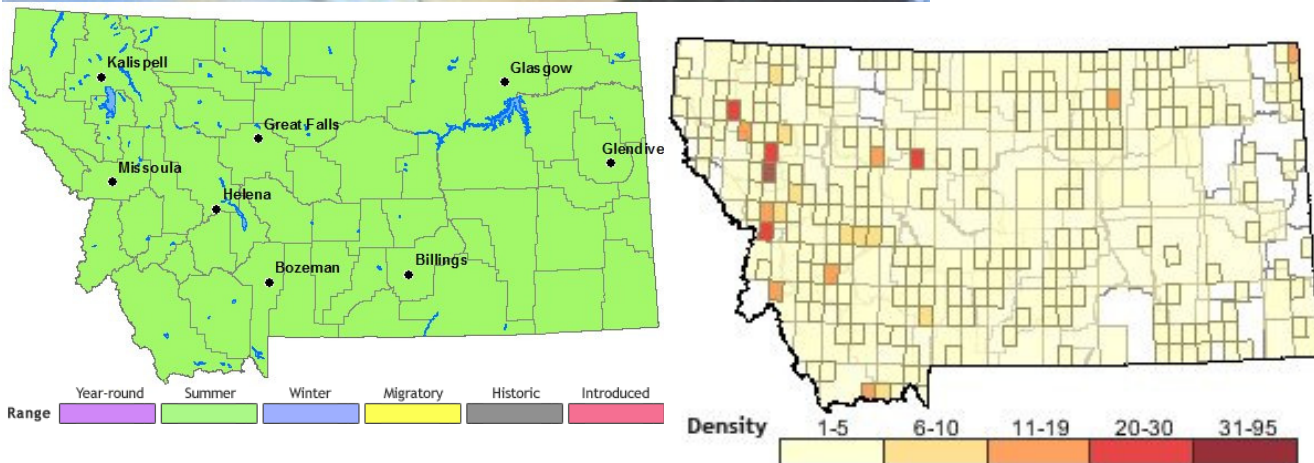
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



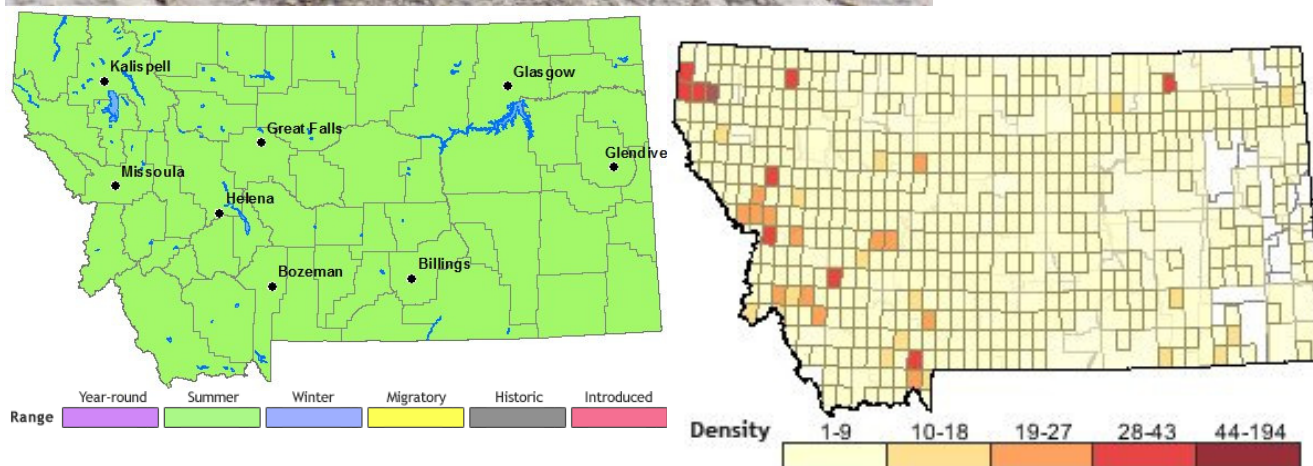
**Number of Observations:** 1154

## Spotted Sandpiper - *Actitis macularius*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3421

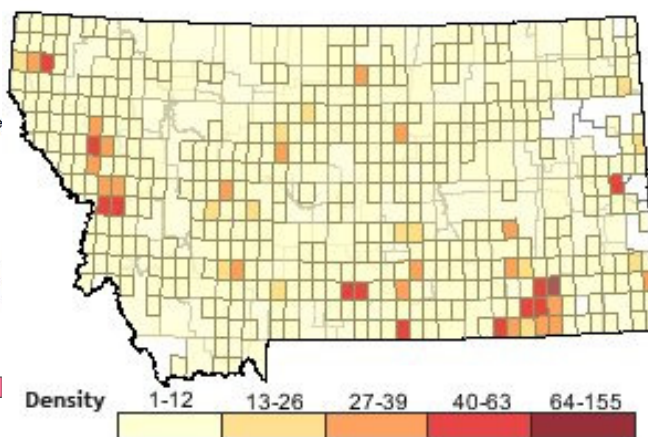
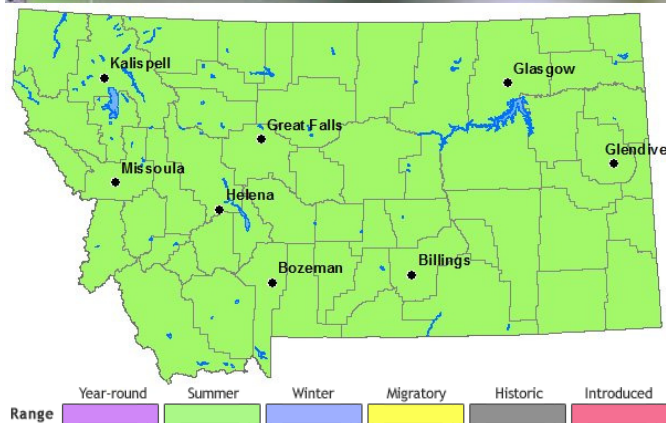


# Spotted Towhee - *Pipilo maculatus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 4612

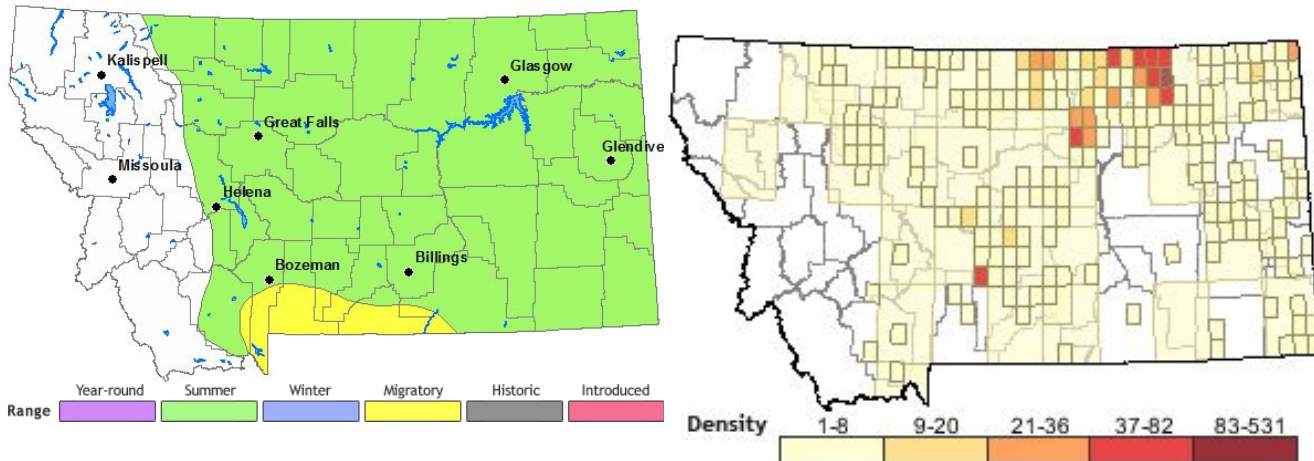
# Sprague's Pipit - *Anthus spragueii*



## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S3B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:** C  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 3505

## General Description

The adult Sprague's Pipit is a pale, slender, sparrow-sized bird with white outer tail feathers, a thin bill, pale legs, and a heavily streaked back. Adults reach a length of 6.5 inches (16.5 cm), with a wingspan of 10 inches (25.4 cm), and a weight of 23.7 to 24.0 grams. The sexes are alike. The sides of the head and indistinct buffy eye-rings are pale. The lores contrast with dark brown eyes and the ear coverts are plain brownish-buff, usually with a slight reddish tinge. The crown, sides and rear of neck are buffy with sharply defined black streaks. The back is light sandy-brown with broad black streaks, with a paler more prominent buffy stripe down each side. The wings, 7.7 to 8.5 cm long, have blackish-brown feathers with whitish to buffy-brown edging, and two whitish wing bars. The rump and upper tail coverts, paler than the back, are sandy-brown with narrow black streaks. The blackish-brown feathers of the tail have buffy edging and the outer two pairs of feathers are white. The breast is a bright dark buff with a necklace of narrow black streaks. The flanks are brownish-buff and without streaks. The legs of the adults are pale brown, flesh or yellowish-brown, while they are pinkish in the juveniles (Godfrey 1966, Maher 1979, King 1981, Robbins and Dale 1999).

On the ground, the bird is extremely secretive and flies away in a long, undulating flight when approached. It walks instead of hops and usually only lands on the ground. The bird is most easily detected by its unique flight song given high overhead (as high as 75 meters); a high-pitched, thin "jingling" sound that can continue for as long as an hour (Peterson 1980, King 1981). Johnsgard (1986) notes that the species' spectacular circular song-flight display around its territory, during which its white outer tail feathers are conspicuously spread, compensates for its particularly inconspicuous plumage.

## Habitat

An endemic grassland bird, the Sprague's Pipit prefers native, medium to intermediate height prairie (Casey 2000) and in a short grass prairie landscape, can often be found in areas with taller grasses (Samson and Knopf 1996). The Sprague's Pipit is significantly more abundant in native prairie than in exotic vegetation (Dechant et al. 2001).

Dechant (2001) also notes that the species has been shown to be area sensitive, requiring relatively large areas of appropriate habitat; the minimum area requirement in a Saskatchewan study was 190 hectares (470 acres). This pipit is also known to utilize and breed in alkaline meadows and around the edges of alkaline lakes (Johnsgard 1986).

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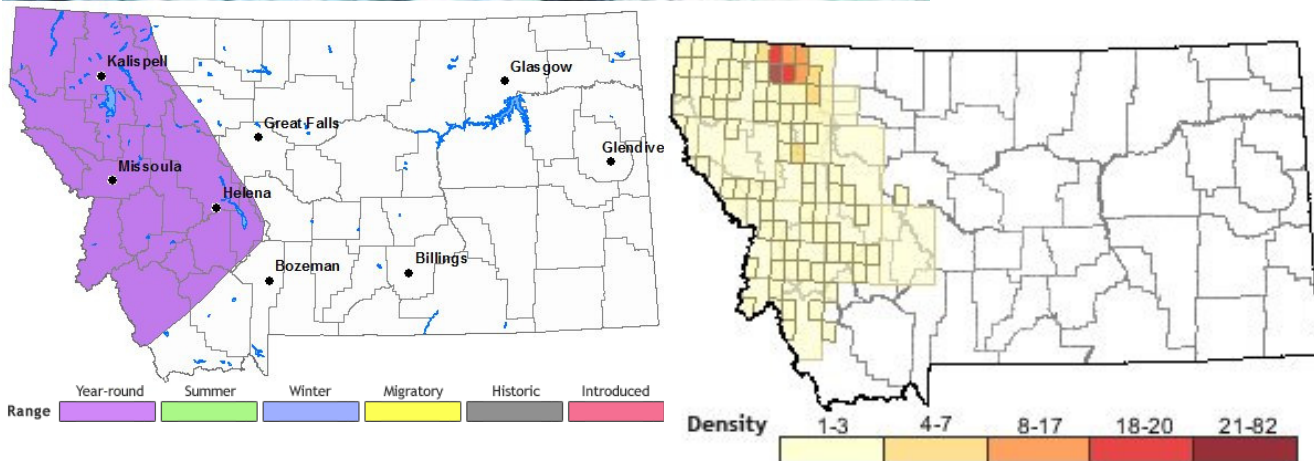


# Spruce Grouse - *Falci pennis canadensis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 382

## General Description

Both sexes have tail feathers that are unbarred and narrowly tipped with white, and feathered legs. Males are gray and black above, with a black throat and a well-defined black breast patch bordered with white-tipped feathers; they have scarlet eye combs. Females are mostly white beneath but barred with black, gray, and buff. Females are also extensively barred on the head. Adult males and females range from 15 to 17 inches in length and average about 17.5 ounces in weight.

## Habitat

Spruce Grouse in Montana inhabit dense forest types such as alpine fir, Engelmann spruce, or lodgepole pine. Winter home ranges northeast of Missoula are covered by Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine and larch. Douglas-fir provided the most important cover; the average size being 24.1 hectares (Paterni 1976). North of Columbia Falls, hens with chicks occupied more open areas in winter (Stoneberg 1967).

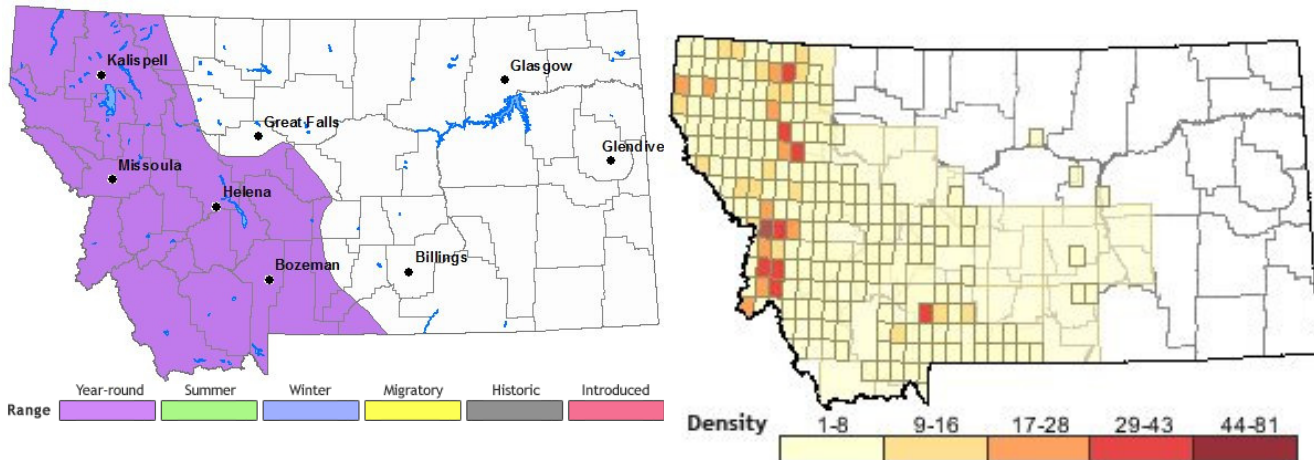


# Steller's Jay - *Cyanocitta stelleri*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2127

## General Description

Dark blue- or black-crested jay, about 30-34 cm long, 100-140 g. Irides dark brown. Bill, legs, and feet black in both sexes. Brownish black to jet black head, crest and upper breast, with slight gloss; light blue streaks on forehead; and grayish white throat-patch. Back dark grayish brown to grayish black, not usually contrasting noticeable with black of head. Lower breast dark greenish blue; lighter under tail. Wings deep, rich blue; tail dark blue or purplish blue. Plumage of sexes similar (Greene et al. 1998).

## Habitat

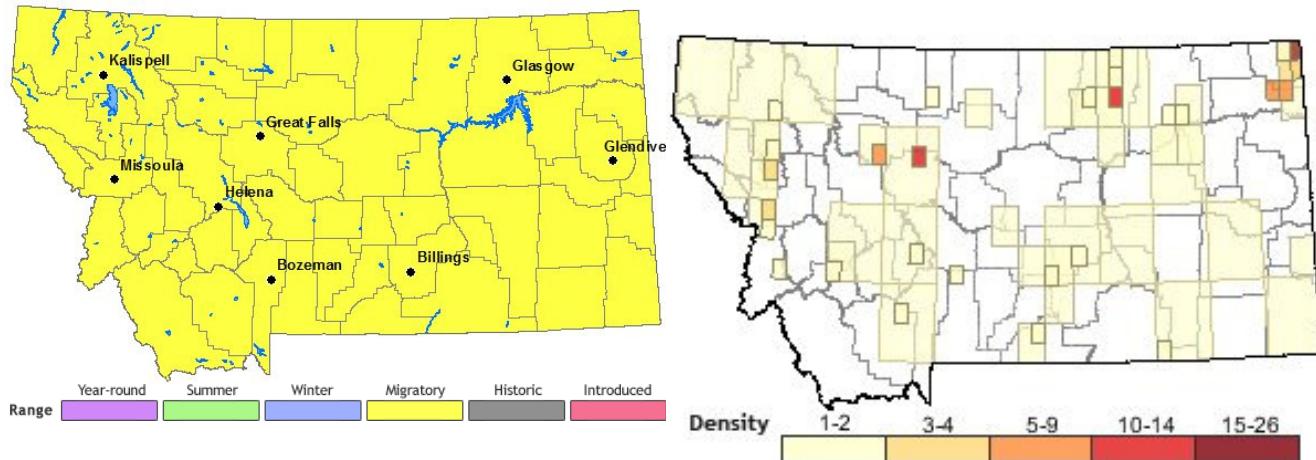
Coniferous and mixed coniferous-deciduous forest, open woodland, orchards, and gardens including humid coniferous forest in northwest North America. Habituates readily to humans and is well known at feeders, picnic areas, and campgrounds. Normally nonmigratory, although populations that breed at high elevations typically move to lower elevations during the winter (Greene et al. 1998).

# Stilt Sandpiper - *Calidris himantopus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 184

## Habitat

Migrants are usually found in company with the typical peeps, but are usually wading in belly-deep water (Johnsgard 1986).

# Summer Tanager - *Piranga rubra*



**Accidental Species**

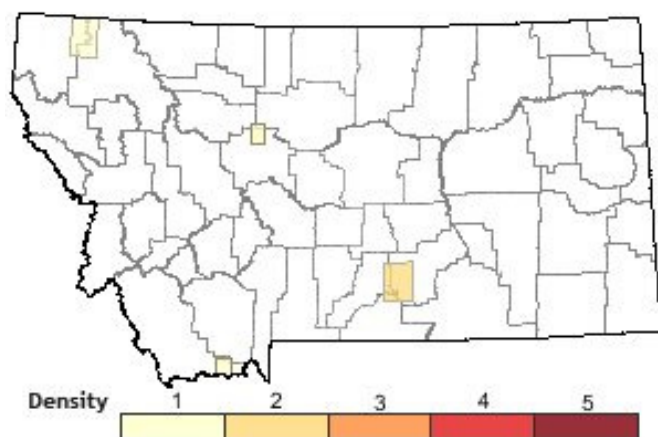
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 5

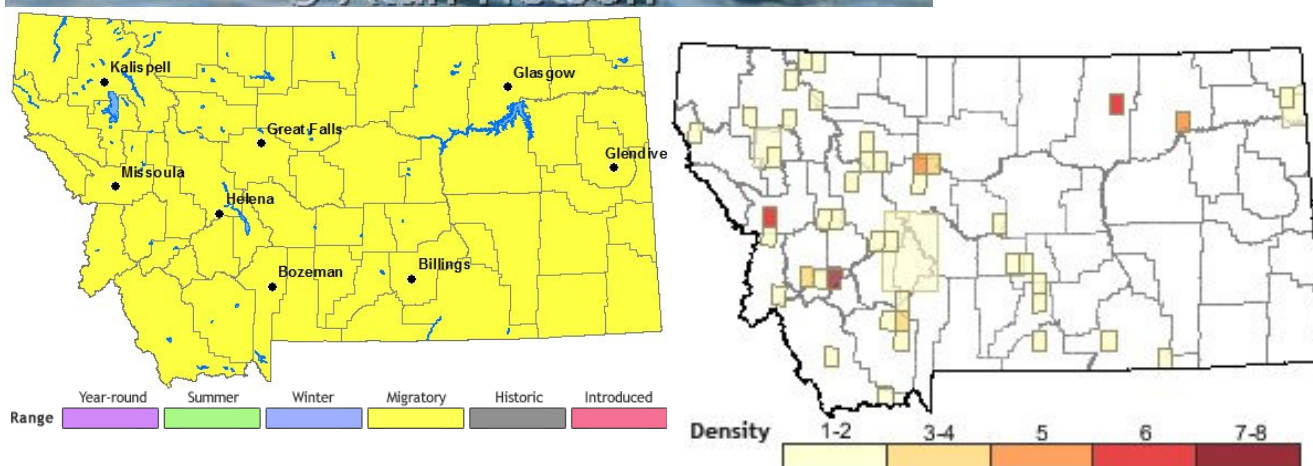
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# Surf Scoter - *Melanitta perspicillata*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 91

## Habitat

Surf Scoters are most likely to be encountered on large lakes and reservoirs during migration (Johnsgard 1986).

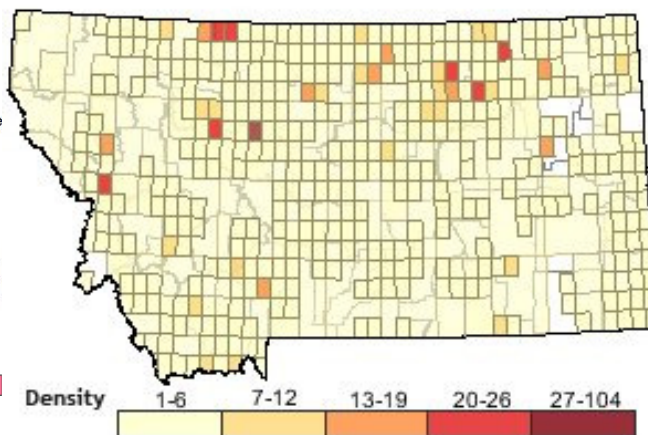
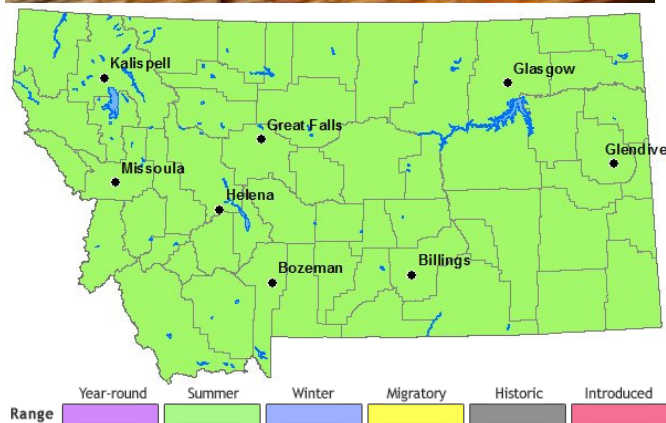


# Swainson's Hawk - *Buteo swainsoni*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 1887

## General Description

Adults are dark brown above, and white with chestnut-brown bib below; tail grayish-brown, finely barred, becoming lighter toward the base. In flight, the wing undersides appear two-toned, with the flight feathers dark and the leading edge of the wing white. The wings of Swainson's Hawks are slightly more pointed than those of other buteos. Dark-phase Swainson's Hawks appear all dark brown above and below and on the entire wing undersides, making them look like a miniature eagle. Intermediate color phases occur, with dark brown bibs and chestnut barring on the belly. Immatures lack the bib and are more strongly barred or streaked underneath. Swainson's Hawks range in length from 18 to 22 inches, and have a wingspan of 48 to 52 inches.

## Habitat

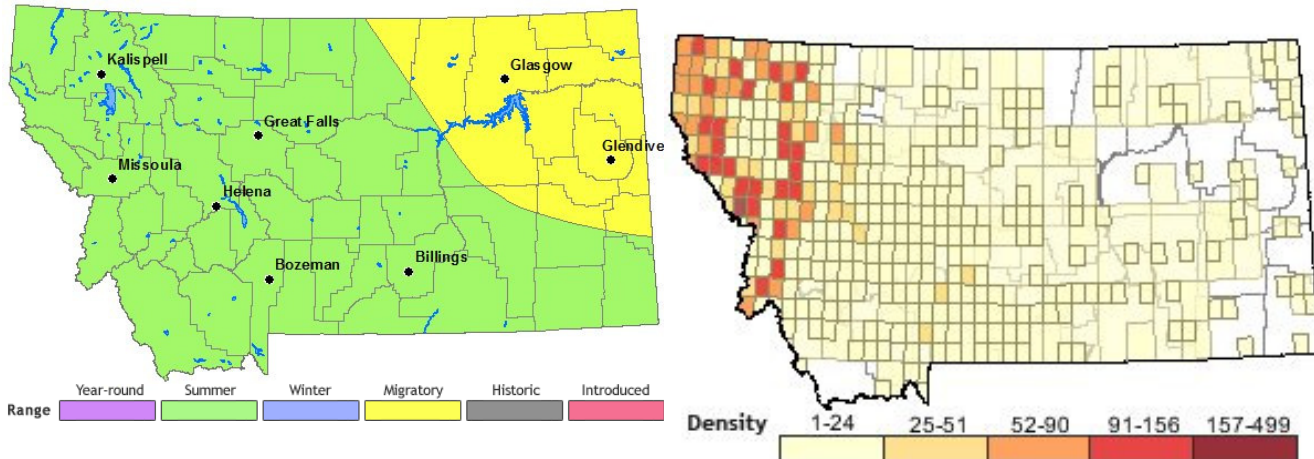
Swainson's Hawks nest in river bottom forests, brushy coulees, and shelterbelts. They hunt in grasslands and agricultural land, especially along river bottoms. In Bozeman area, the birds inhabit the drier, open parts of the Gallatin valley (Skaar 1969).

# Swainson's Thrush - *Catharus ustulatus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 15202

## General Description

Medium-sized thrush with olive-brownish upperparts, distinct buffy eye-ring, white underparts and brownish black spotting on the throat and breast. Overall length 16.1 to 19.3 cm; mass 23 to 45 g. Although wings and tail may be somewhat browner than body, upperparts appear fairly uniform in color. Swainson's Thrush is best distinguished from all other thrushes by presence of buffy eye-ring and lores. The distinctive song and call also distinguish Swainson's Thrush from others. The flutelike song spirals upward, differing from the descending or variably pitched songs of related thrushes (Evans et al. 2000).

## Habitat

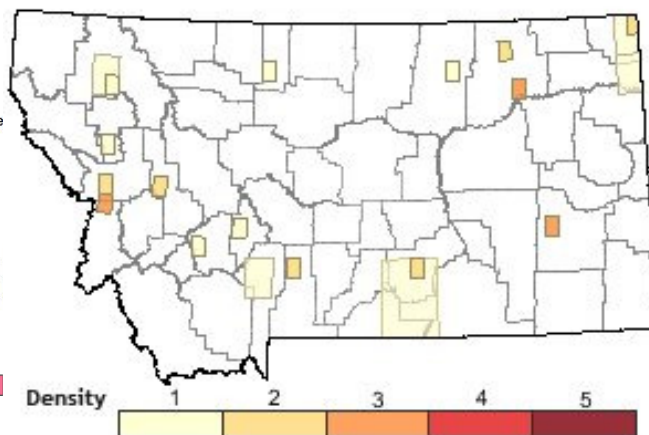
In general, most strongly associated with coniferous forests. In western states, at the southern end of its range, the species inhabits mountain deciduous riparian or aspen forests. Described as a bird of mature forests. Canopy closure, understory cover, tree density, and a conifer component are important habitat attributes (Evans et al. 2000).

# Swamp Sparrow - *Melospiza georgiana*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4M

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 32



# Tennessee Warbler - *Oreothlypis peregrina*



## Potential Species of Concern

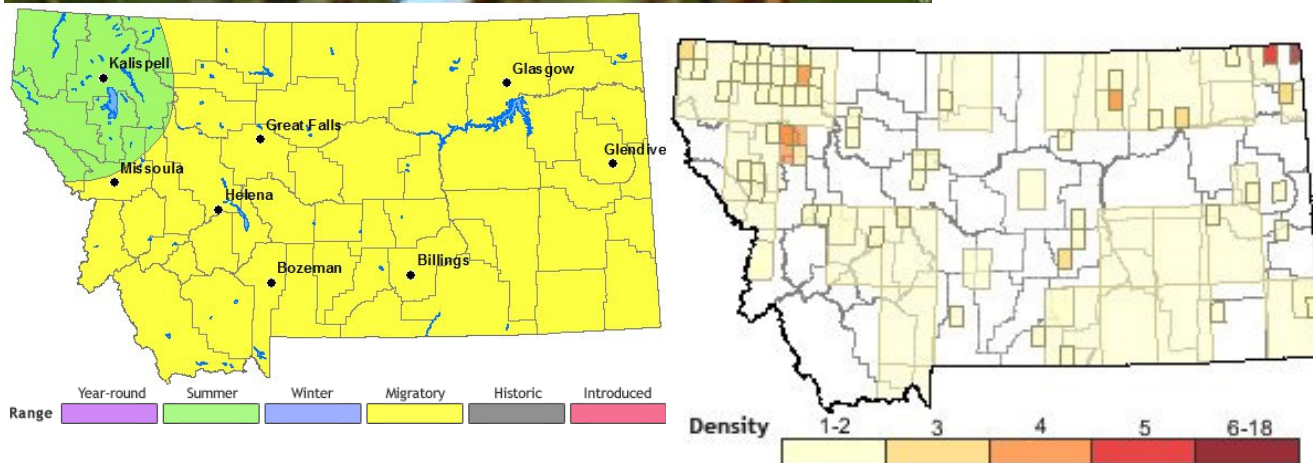
Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: S3S4B

### Agency Status

USFWS:

USFS:

BLM:



Number of Observations: 142

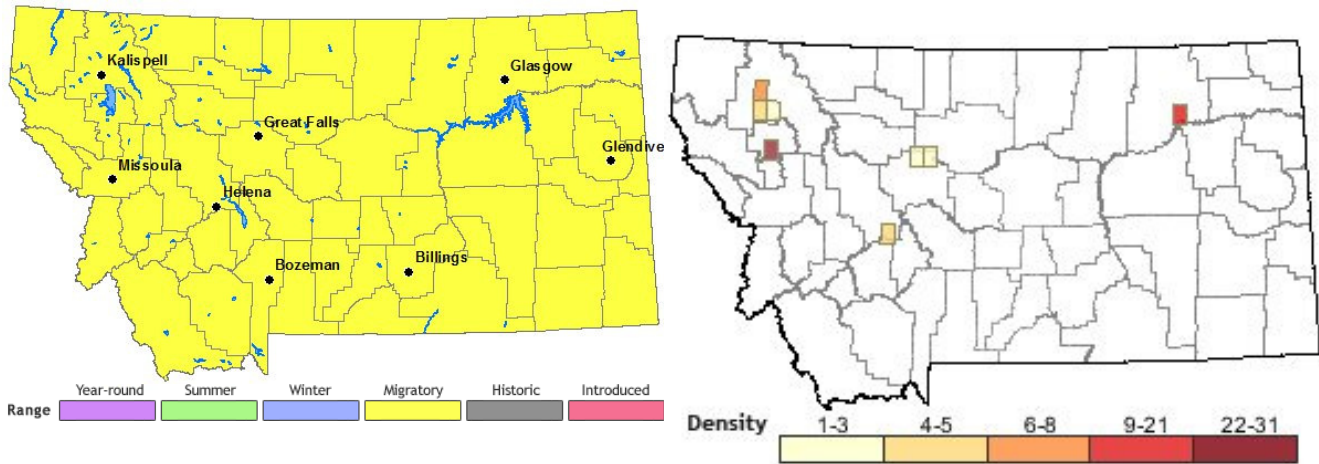


# Thayer's Gull - *Larus thayeri*



Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: SNA

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



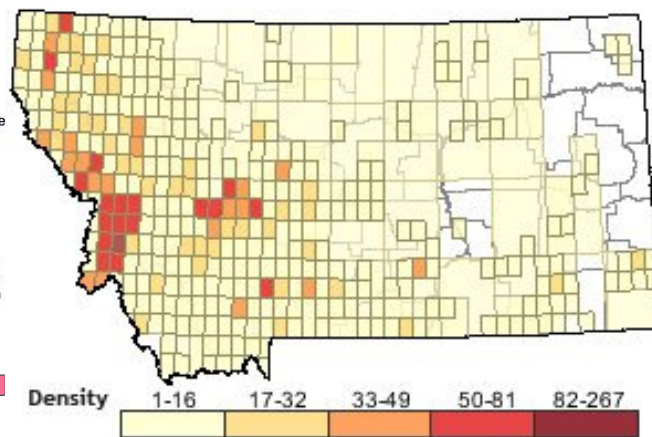
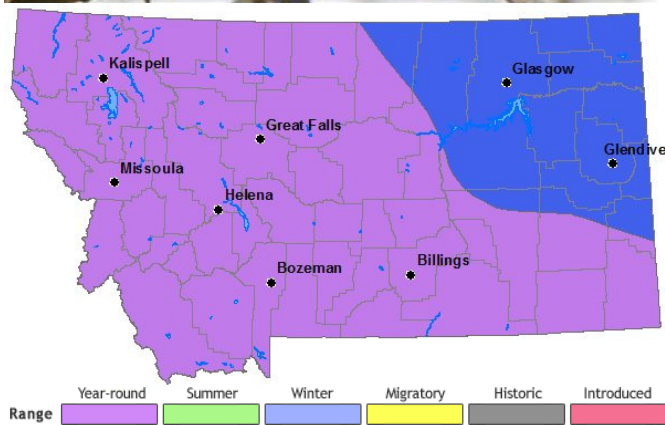
Number of Observations: 75

# Townsend's Solitaire - *Myadestes townsendi*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



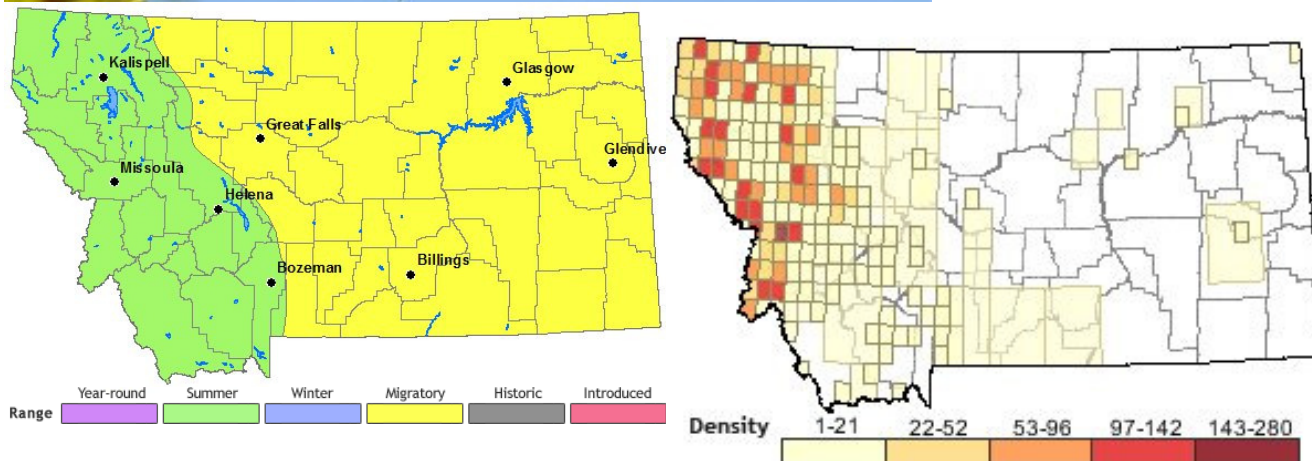
**Number of Observations:** 8254

# Townsend's Warbler - *Setophaga townsendi*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 10005

## General Description

A medium-sized wood warbler. Total length about 12 cm. Body mass about 9 g. Boldly patterned plumage of yellow, black, and olive green. Breeding male distinctive, with bright yellow stripes bordering black cheek patch. Crown and throat black; yellow extends below throat to lower breast; remaining underparts white; sides and flanks streaked black. Back olive green, with distinct black streaks or spots. Two white wing-bars, and extensive white in outer tail-feathers. Adult female differs from male in that female has generally duller markings and coloration, crown is olive green with thin black streaks, cheek-patch is deep olive, not black, throat is yellow and has variable amount of black markings, and back has less distinct black streaks than male (Wright et al. 1998). See Condor 94:490-501 for aging criteria.

## Habitat

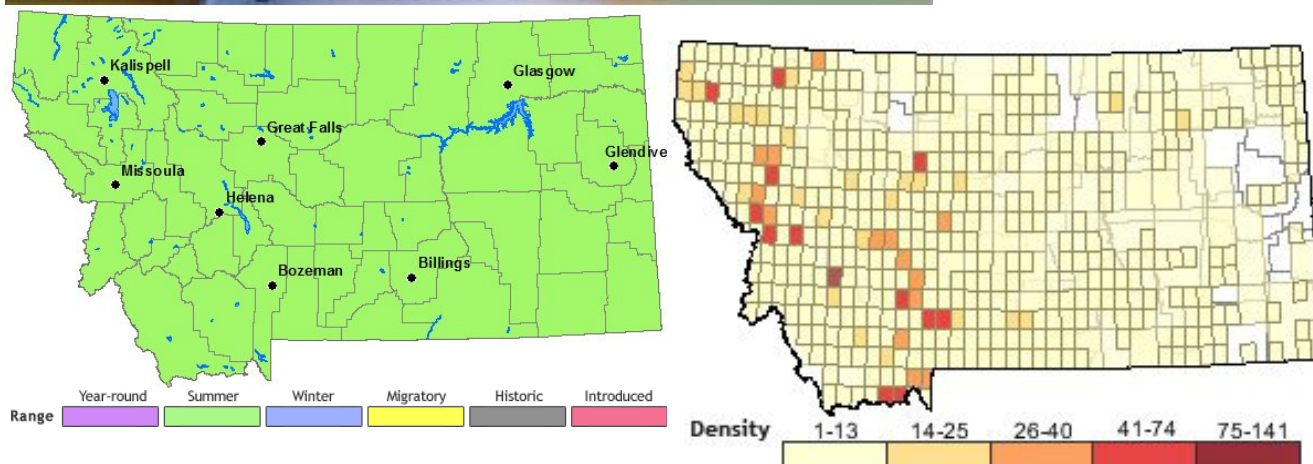
Tall coniferous and mixed coniferous-deciduous forest at various elevations, from wet coastal forest at sea level to dry subalpine forest. Most abundant in unlogged, old-growth forest, but also common in late successional stages. Uncommon in logged forest (Wright et al. 1998).

# Tree Swallow - *Tachycineta bicolor*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 5007

## General Description

Medium-sized swallow, tail not sharply forked. Total length, tip of bill to tip of longest tail feather is about 14.0 cm. Bicolor. Mostly steely greenish blue above, white below. Upperside body feathers either iridescent greenish blue (males and older females) or mixture of brown and greenish blue. A highly social bird. Outside the breeding season, it often forms large flocks, up to several hundred thousand birds at some nighttime roosts (Robertson et al. 1992).

## Habitat

Open fields, meadows, marshes, beaver ponds, lakeshores and other wetland margins. Uses trees only for nesting and occasional roosting (Robertson et al. 1992).



# Trumpeter Swan - *Cygnus buccinator*

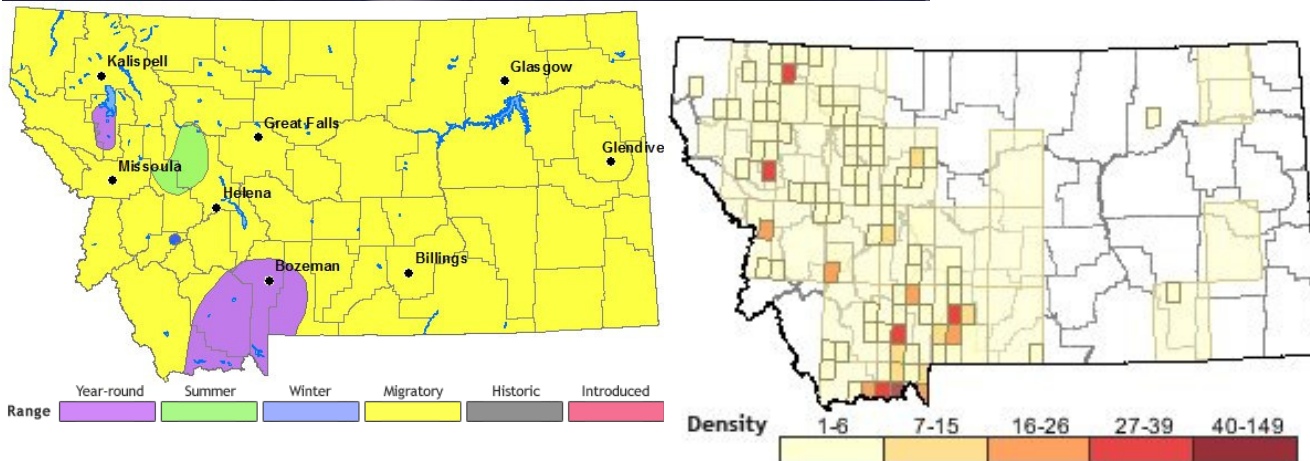


## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S3

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**  
**USFS:** SENSITIVE  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 1075

## General Description

Trumpeter Swans are the largest waterfowl in North America. They can be up to 5 feet in length, have a wingspan up to 80 inches (almost 7 feet) and weigh over 20 pounds. Males are larger than females, but otherwise the sexes are similar in appearance. The adult Trumpeter Swan is entirely white, although the head and neck are sometimes stained an orange color due to iron-rich waters and mud where they forage for food. The webbed feet and legs are black. The bill is straight, rarely shows any yellow spot in front of the eyes (lores) and also is black. Sometimes the lower mandible shows a salmon-red line along the upper edge (Mitchell 1994). Juvenile swans are mostly white, but can retain a gray or brown head, neck and body feathers. Their feet may be yellowish, grayish or dull black. Hatchlings (cygnets) are all gray in color and have pinkish feet and a black and pink bicolored bill (Mitchell 1994).

The vocalization of Trumpeter Swans is limited to only a call sounding like *oh-OH*. They can make this call either with their mouths open (louder) or closed (nasal-like). Other sounds made include peeps, hisses and gurgles (Mitchell 1994).

## Habitat

The breeding habitat for Trumpeter Swans in the Red Rock Lakes/Centennial Valley of Montana includes lakes and ponds and adjacent marshes containing sufficient vegetation and nesting locations. Along the Rocky Mountain Front the breeding habitat is small pothole lakes, generally with sufficient water to maintain emergent vegetation through the breeding season (MTNHP 2003). Habitat requirements for breeding include room to take off (~100 m), shallow, unpolluted water with sufficient emergent vegetation and invertebrates, appropriate nest sites (i.e. Muskrat lodges), and areas with little human disturbance (Mitchell 1994).

Their nonbreeding habitat in Montana is the many large and small lakes and ponds in extreme southern Montana, including the breeding area of the Red Rock Lakes/Centennial Valley. Trumpeter Swans also winter in the Ennis Lake and Madison River complex, as well as Hebden Lake and the surrounding area. During winter appropriate

habitat is areas where water does not freeze and food is plentiful and accessible. Trumpeter Swans will move out of one lake or pond to another if conditions become too severe.

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# Tufted Duck - *Aythya fuligula*



**Accidental Species**

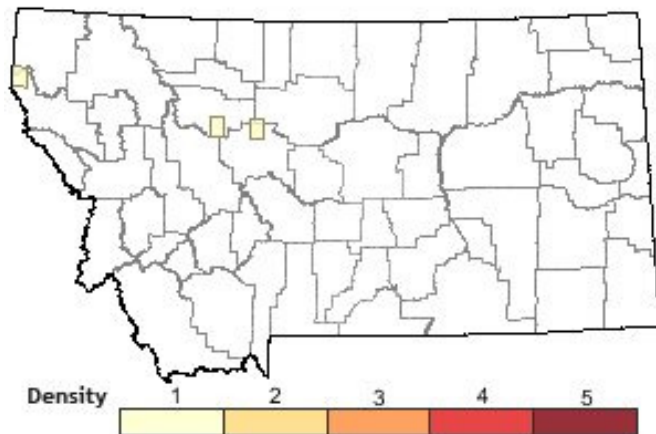
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3

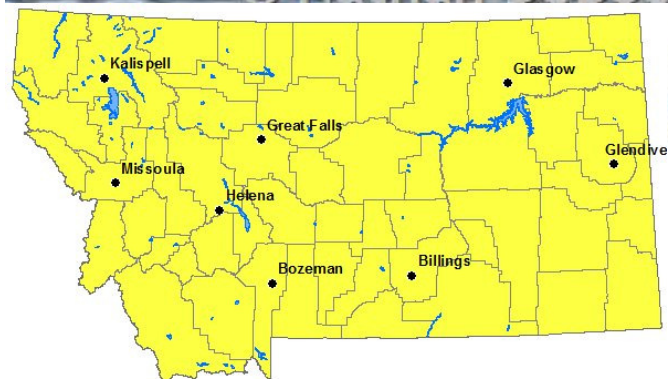
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# Tundra Swan - *Cygnus columbianus*

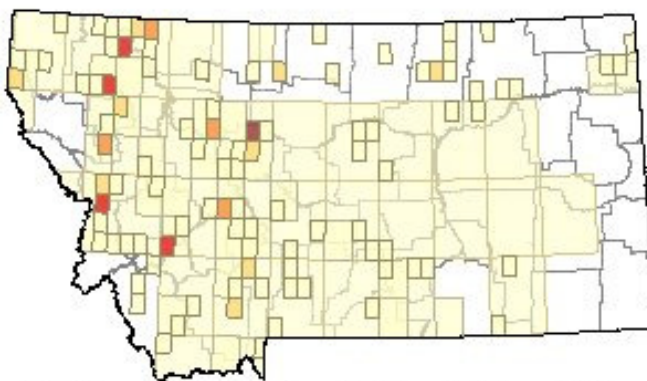


**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



Range    Year-round    Summer    Winter    Migratory    Historic    Introduced



Density    1-5    6-11    12-31    32-39    40-224

**Number of Observations:** 1054

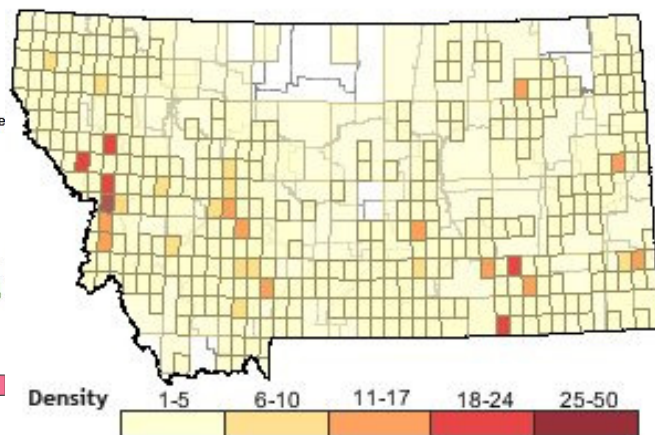
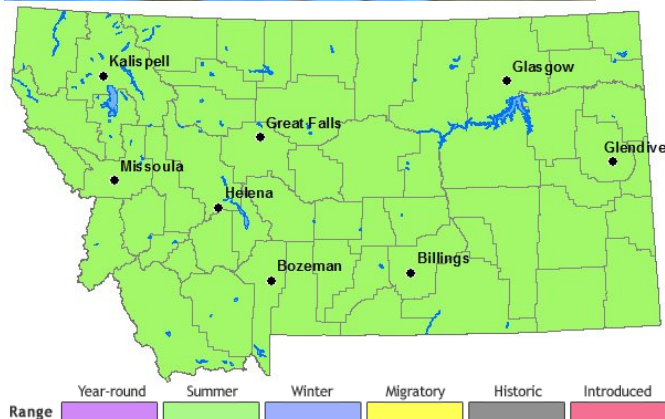


# Turkey Vulture - *Cathartes aura*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1522

## General Description

Turkey Vultures are large, black birds. When soaring overhead, the wings have a two-toned gray and black appearance. Turkey vultures often hold their wings in a shallow "V" and rock from side to side when soaring. The head usually appears small in relation to the body. The red color of the head in adults is often hard to see on flying birds. Young birds have a blackish-gray heads. Turkey Vultures range in length from 26 to 32 inches and have a wingspan of 68 to 72 inches.

## Habitat

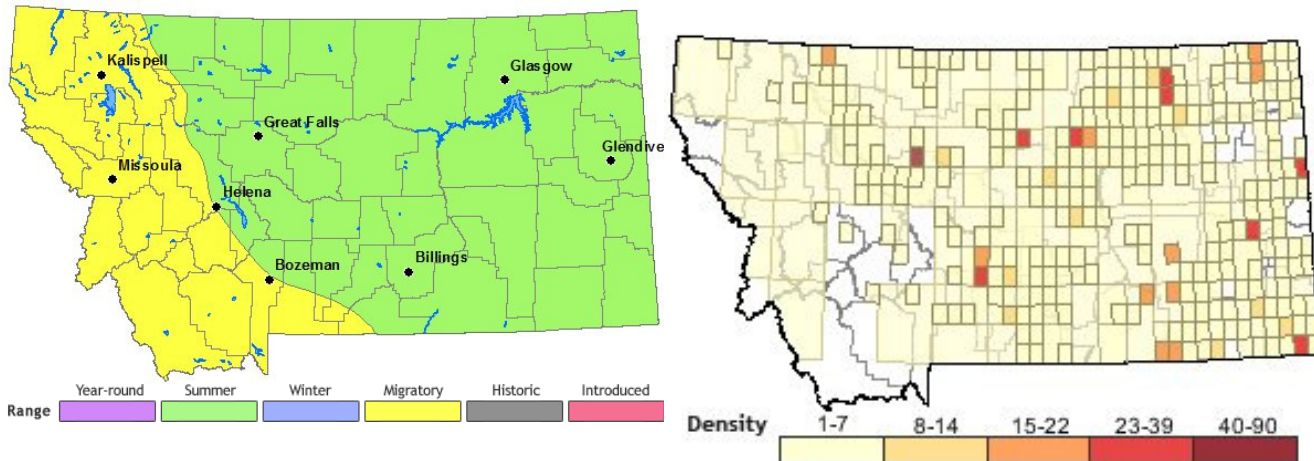
Turkey Vultures forage in a variety of habitats, including grasslands, badlands, open woodlands, and farmlands. Nesting in the northern Rockies is usually done on cliff ledges under overhangs, or in rock crevices, often in river valleys (Johnsgard 1986).

# Upland Sandpiper - *Bartramia longicauda*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1870

## General Description

Ranges from 27.9 to 32.5 cm in size and is the most terrestrial of North American shorebirds. The sexes are outwardly alike; females average slightly larger than males (Forbush 1925, Prater et al. 1977). Breeding adults are overall scaly-brown in appearance above with a long slender neck, small rounded head, and relatively long tail. The upper neck is buff-streaked brown with sharply defined V-shaped markings becoming more barred on the lower breast and flanks. The throat and abdomen are white. The eye is large with a dark iris. The bill is short, slightly decurved and dusky at the tip. The tail feathers are barred, dark brown with outer tertials pale orange-brown basally, tipped with white. Legs and feet are yellow-grey (Forbush 1925, Roberts 1955, Prater et al. 1977). Adults captured at the nest may be sexed by wing chord and tail length. This method of sex determination is estimated to be 88.3% accurate for mated pairs (Peterson 1983). Downy young are a fine, mixed pattern of black, white and buff yellowish-brown above. A black stripe runs from the base of the bill over the top of the head. There is a band of buff or yellowish-brown across the upper breast. The sides of the head, chin and underparts are generally white (Forbush 1925). Juveniles resemble adults, but the upperparts are darker and scaller with the buffy color of the neck, breast and wings much deeper and the streaks of the foreneck and breast less distinct. The wing coverts have clear buffy edges and dark submarginal lines. The scapulars are uniformly dark with narrow, defined buff-white fringes. The tail feathers are notched with pale buff. Following the first prenuptial molt the young become indistinguishable from adults (Forbush 1925, Hayman et al. 1986). Winter plumage is similar to that of the breeding adult, but paler (Forbush 1925).

**VOCALIZATIONS:** The unique vocalizations include a rapid, liquid "quip-ip-ip-ip" series of alarm notes and a penetrating "whip-whee-ee-you windy" whistle (Johnsgard 1981).

**NESTS:** The nest is a shallow depression in the ground approximately 10 to 13 cm in diameter and five cm deep, lined with pieces of dry grass (Bent 1929). Nests are usually well hidden, frequently by vegetation that hangs over the nest hiding it from above (Johnsgard 1981). The eggs are cinnamon to pale olive-buff or greenish-white in color, spotted with brown and underlaying spots of ecru or pale grey. Clutch size is normally four eggs, sometimes three, and rarely five (Bent 1929).

## Habitat

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In general, uses dry grasslands with low to moderate forb cover, low woody cover, moderate grass cover, moderate to high litter cover, and little bare ground (Houston and Bowen 2001).

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## Varied Thrush - *Ixoreus naevius*

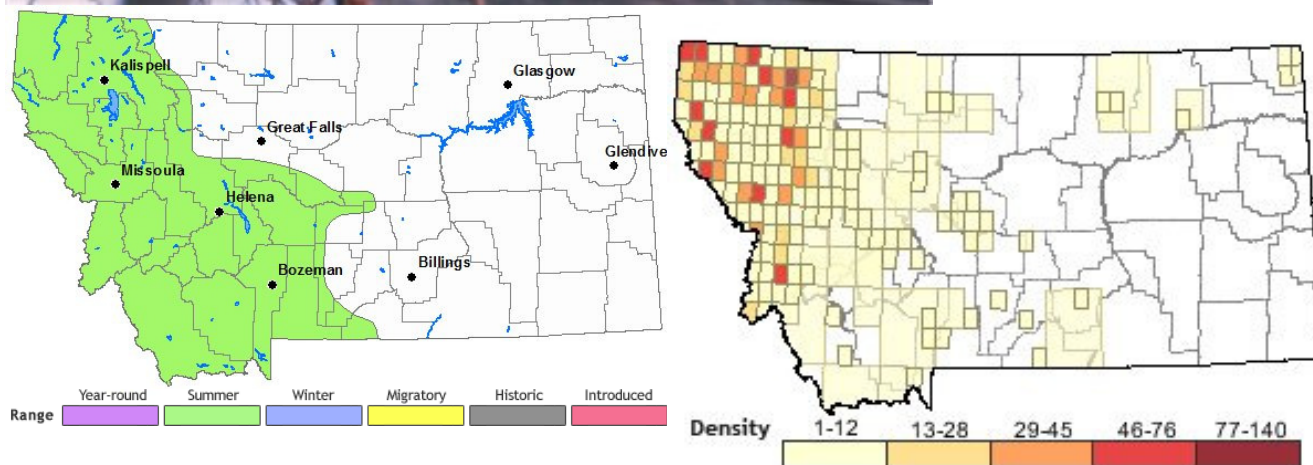


### Species of Concern

Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: S3B

### Agency Status

USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



Number of Observations: 3539

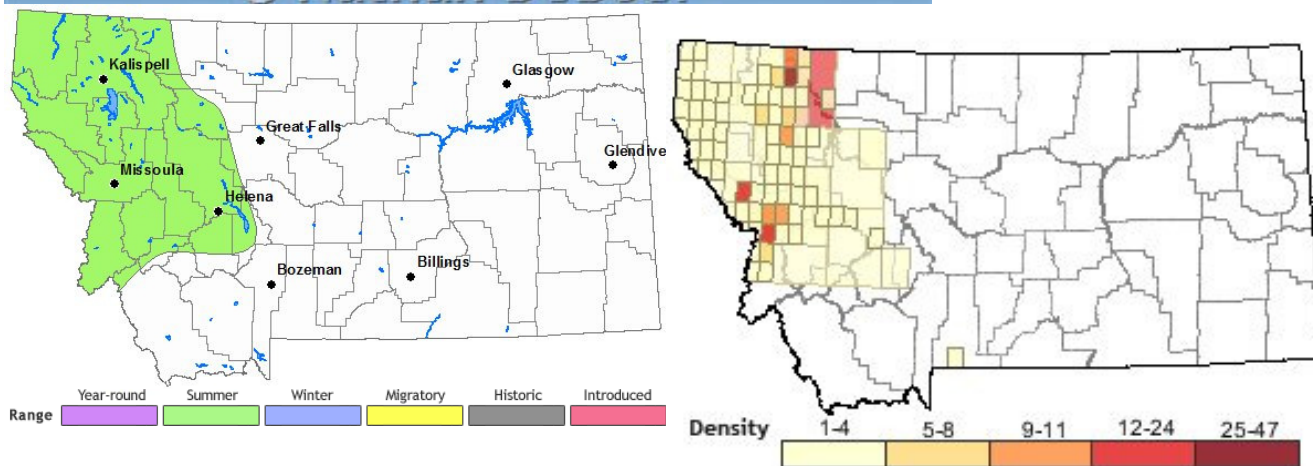


# Vaux's Swift - *Chaetura vauxi*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 430

## General Description

The smallest swift in North America. A 11 cm-long bird with long narrow wings, a small cigar-shaped body, and a short stubby tail. Size of sexes is similar. Plumage of sexes similar. Plain grayish brown, sometimes with a slight green iridescence; rump and upper tail coverts range from a pale brownish-gray to a duller shade like that of the back. Upper breast and throat paler than rest of undersides. Best known for its quick flight and dazzling aerial agility (Bull and Collins 1993).

## Habitat

During breeding prefer late stages of coniferous forests and deciduous forests mixed with coniferous. More common in old-growth forests than in younger stands. During spring and fall migrations prefer forests and open areas; roost trees and chimneys important as they allow Chimney Swifts to avoid exposure and conserve body heat. Hollow trees are its favored nesting and roosting sites (Bull and Collins 1993).

# Veery - *Catharus fuscescens*



## Species of Concern

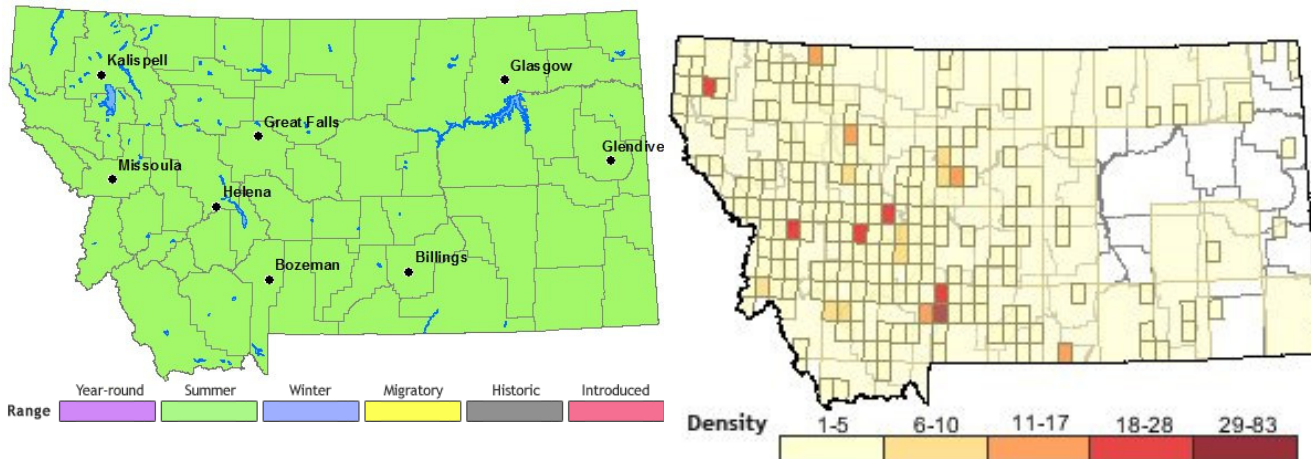
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 961

## General Description

The Veery is an 18-cm-long bird with a reddish brown dorsum, white belly, gray flanks, grayish face, small spots (often indistinct) on the breast, indistinct grayish eyering, and straight slim bill. Western populations have a darker dorsum and more breast spotting than do eastern populations.

## Habitat

Generally inhabits damp, deciduous forests in the east. Has a strong preference for riparian habitats in several regions, including the Great Plains. Prefers disturbed forest, probably because denser understory is not found in undisturbed forests (Moskoff 1995). In Montana, Veerys are often associated with willow thickets and cottonwood along streams and lakes in valleys and lower mountain canyons (Saunders 1921, Hand 1969, Skaar 1969), including the Flathead and Lewistown regions (Silloway 1901, 1903a). It also occupies riparian cottonwood stands along the lower Missouri River (Kroodsmas 1973). Along Beaver Creek in the Bears Paw Mountains, Veerys were present in a variety of plant community types (box elder, alder, aspen, cottonwood, and lodgepole pine) so long as willow was a significant component (Walcheck 1969).

## Vermilion Flycatcher - *Pyrocephalus rubinus*



**Accidental Species**

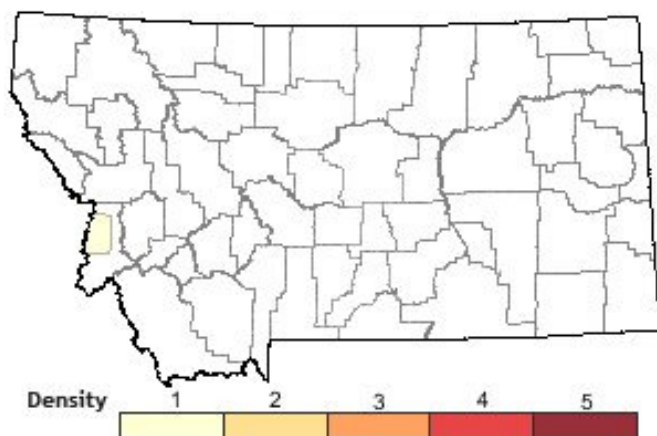
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

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# Vesper Sparrow - *Pooecetes gramineus*



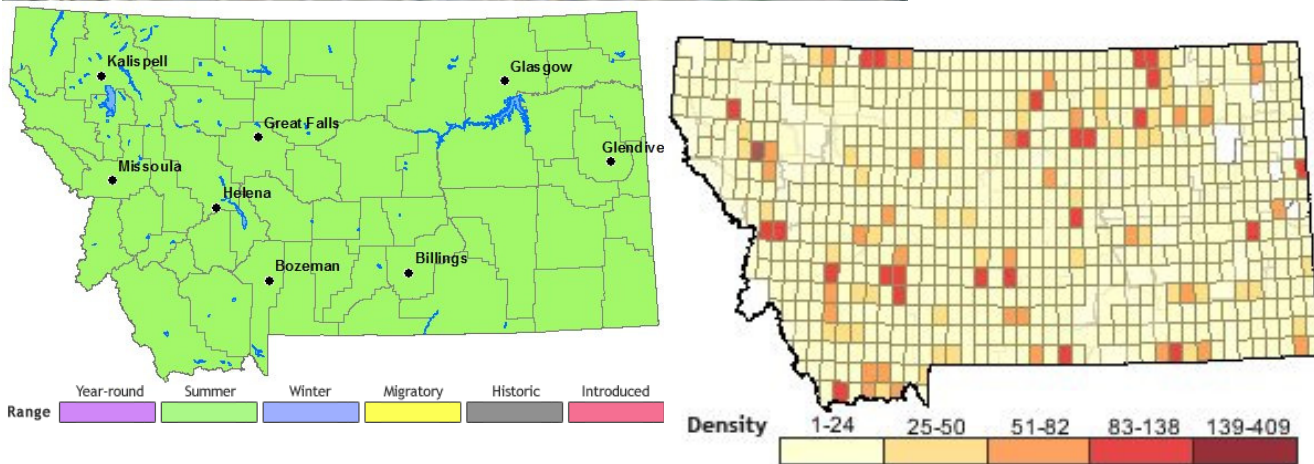
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

## **Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 17310

## **Habitat**

In central Montana they nest on the ground under big sagebrush, but concealment of the nest is not greatly important (Best 1970). They are found in areas where vegetation was short and dense, with a high percentage of cover (Reed 1984).

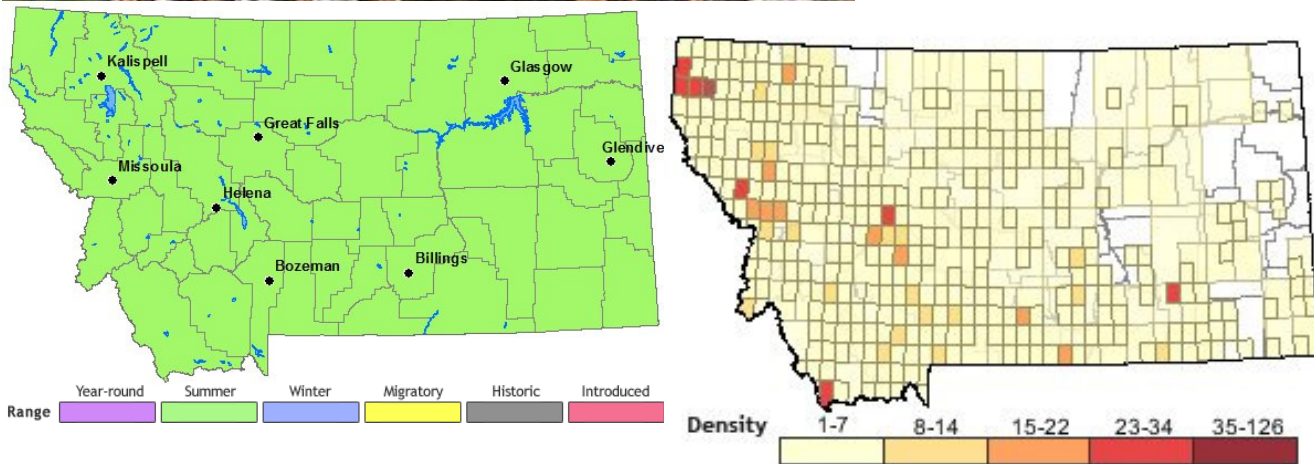


# Violet-green Swallow - *Tachycineta thalassina*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2116

## General Description

Beneath, pure white. Above, soft velvety green or greenish bronze, with a very faint shade of purplish-violet concentrated on the nape into a transverse band. Ear coverts partly or mainly white almost encircling the eyes. A white patch on each side of rump. Looks smaller in flight than other swallows (Brown et al. 1992).

## Habitat

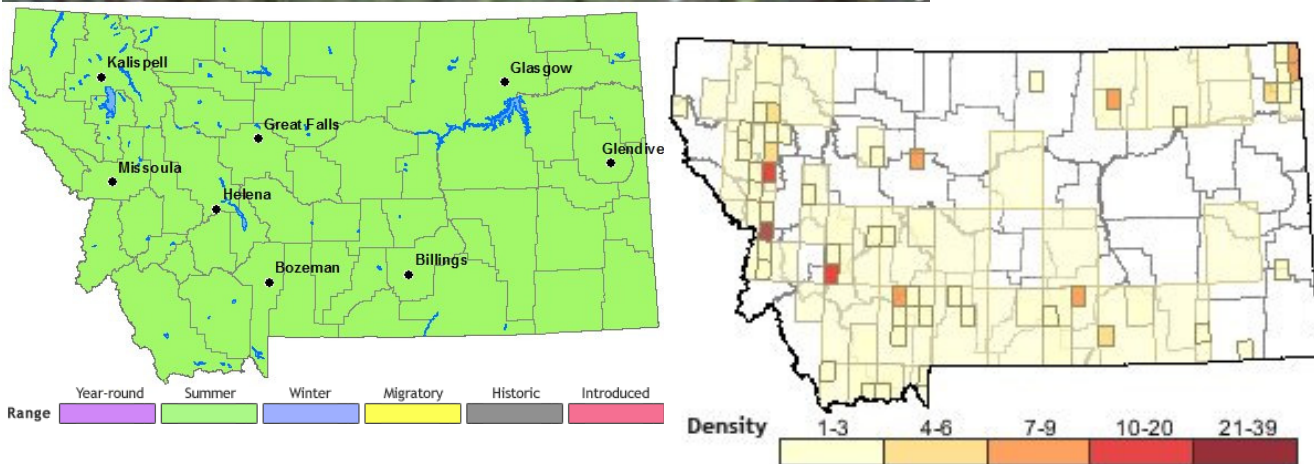
Occurs principally in montane coniferous forests. Breeding range includes open deciduous, coniferous, and mixed woodlands. Often perches on wires and exposed tree branches (Brown et al. 1992).

## Virginia Rail - *Rallus limicola*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 297

### General Description

Small (22 to 27 cm) dorsally compressed, reddish bird with gray cheeks and a long, slightly decurved bill. Wings chestnut-colored with a 1-mm claw on outer digit and reduced 11th primary. Legs and bill reddish, flanks banded black and white. Females smaller than males. Clapper and King Rails are much larger with less red on bill and less gray on cheeks. A secretive freshwater marsh bird that is more often heard than seen. Duetting "grunt" vocalizations signal the start of the nesting season each spring (Conway 1995).

### Habitat

Breeds predominantly in freshwater wetlands, but nests have been reported in salt marshes. Shallow water, emergent cover, and substrate with high invertebrate abundance are thought to be the most important features. Needs standing water, moist-soil, or mudflats for foraging. Winter range includes both freshwater and salt marshes, generally similar to breeding habitat (Conway 1995).

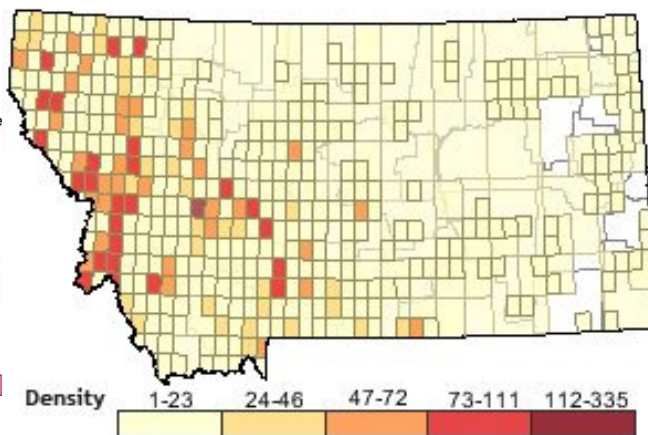
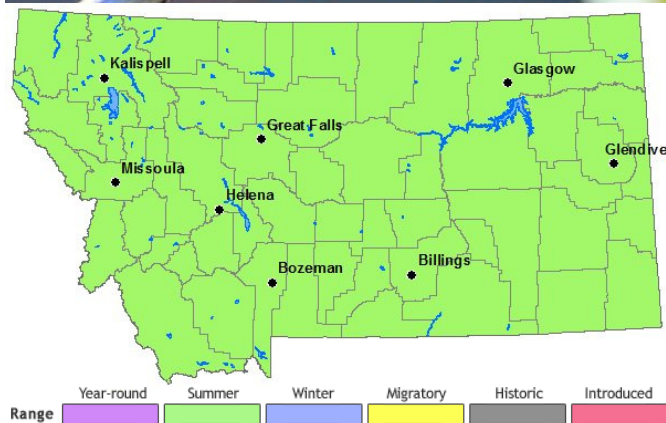


# Warbling Vireo - *Vireo gilvus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 13327

## General Description

The Warbling Vireo is highly noted for its persistent singing - even from the nest. It is a small gray-olive bird with white underparts sometimes slightly washed yellow. Length 12 to 13 cm, body mass 10 to 16 g. Face with moderately distinct white supercilium contrasting indistinctly with grayish eye-line, but otherwise very plain, without additional contrasting markings. Sexes alike and plumages similar throughout year (Gardali and Ballard 2000).

## Habitat

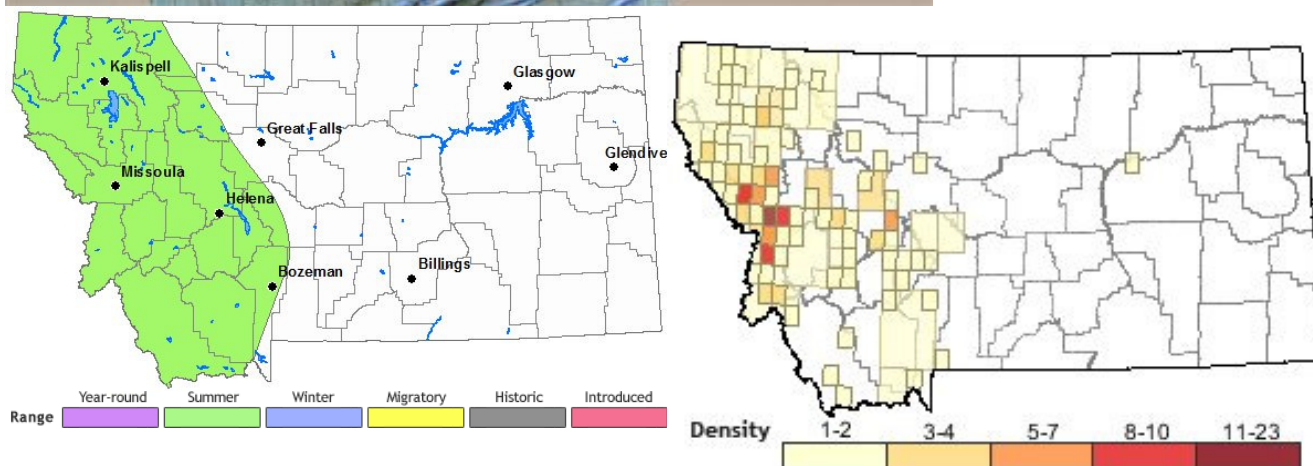
Throughout range, shows a strong association with mature mixed deciduous woodlands especially along streams, ponds, marshes, and lakes but sometimes in upland areas away from water. Also found in young deciduous stands that emerge after a clear-cut. In general, overall habitat structure consists of large trees with semi-open canopy. Other habitats include urban parks and gardens, orchards, farm fencerows, campgrounds, deciduous patches in pine forests, mixed hardwood forests, and rarely, pure coniferous forests (Gardali and Ballard 2000).

## Western Bluebird - *Sialia mexicana*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 265

### General Description

Small thrush, 16.5 to 19 cm in length, 24 to 31 g mass. Plumage sexually dimorphic. Adult male has bright, deep, cobalt-blue head (including chin and throat) and upperparts (including wings and tail), with chestnut breast (chestnut coloration may be bisected, laterally, by blue), and frequently chestnut back patches. Remaining underparts grayish, becoming blue-gray on belly and undertail-coverts. Adult female considerably duller and not extensively bluish. Head and throat gray, back gray-brown, abdomen and undertail-coverts grayish, blue in wings and tail. Adult plumages are similar throughout the year (Guinan et al. 2000).

### Habitat

Western Bluebirds can usually be found in open coniferous and deciduous woodlands, parklike forests, edge habitats, burned areas and where moderate amounts of logging have occurred, provided a sufficient number of larger trees and snags remain to provide nest sites and perches (Guinan et al. 2000).

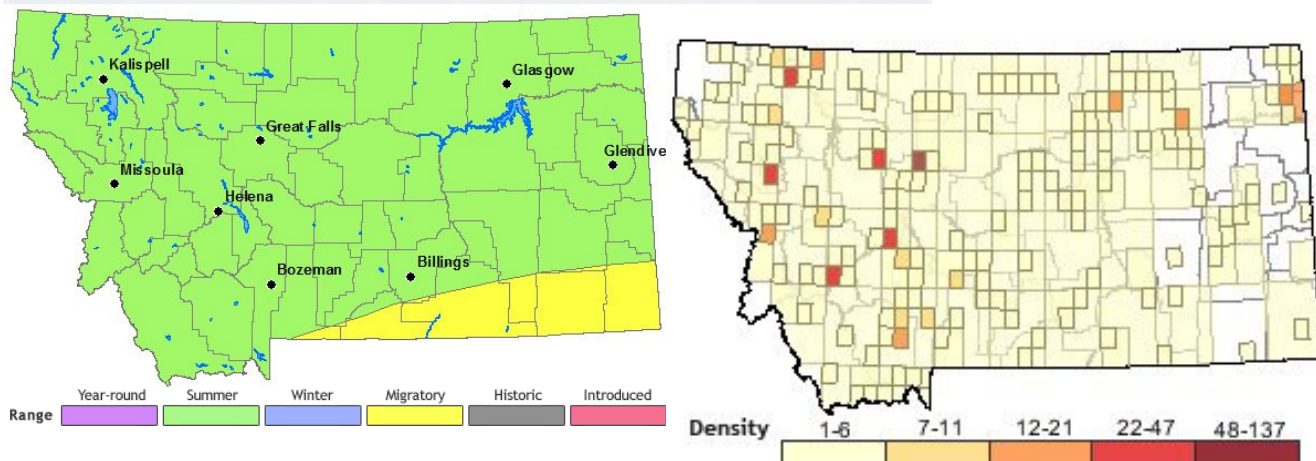


# Western Grebe - *Aechmophorus occidentalis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1309

## General Description

The Western Grebe is 55 to 77 cm long and 800 to 1800 grams. It is black and white with a narrow body, long neck, and long, pointed yellowish green bill. The bright red eyes of the Western Grebe are surrounded by black. The female is smaller and the bill on the female is much thinner and shorter (Storer and Nuechterlein 1992).

## Habitat

The Western Grebe lives on fresh water lakes and marshes which have large areas of open water and vegetation around it (Storer & Nuechterlein 1992).

## Western Kingbird - *Tyrannus verticalis*



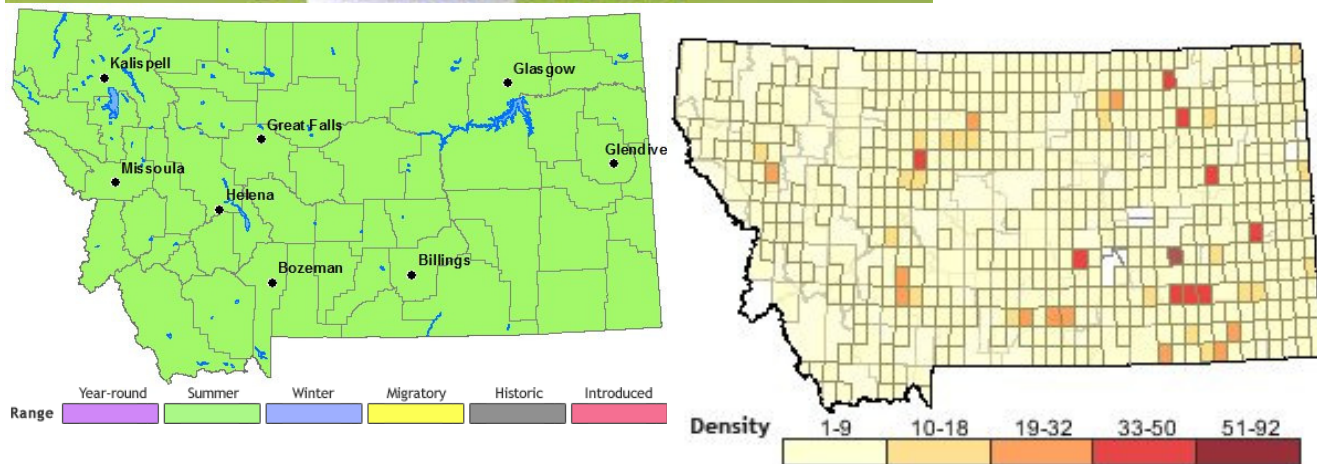
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3152

### General Description

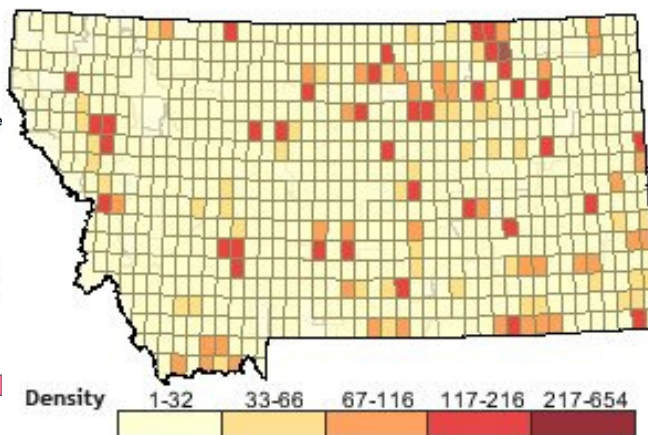
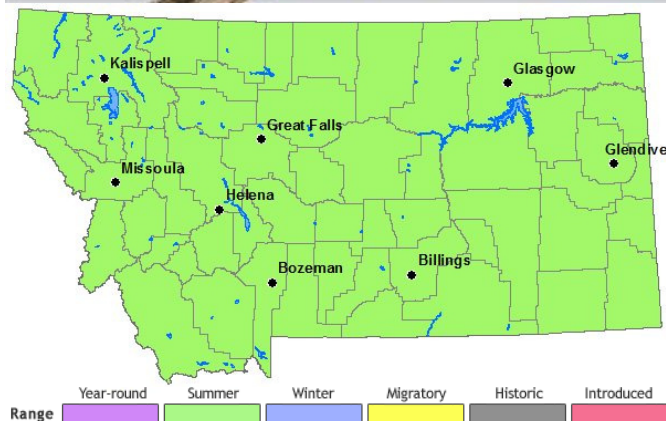
See Kaufman (1992) for information on identification.

# Western Meadowlark - *Sturnella neglecta*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 30319

## General Description

Medium-sized terrestrial songbird with long, slender bill, short tail with rather rigid rectrices, and long legs and toes. Nostril ovate, overhang by prominent horny operculum. Crown dark with light median stripe. A light line over eye becomes bright yellow from eye to bill. Upperparts with intricate concealing pattern of buffs, browns, and black streaks and bars. Underparts bright yellow, the sides, flanks, and undertail-coverts dull white, broadly streaked and spotted with dusky black. Outer wing and tail feathers barred with black and brown; outer rectrices partly white. Adult has a black shield-shaped or crescentic patch on chest. Sexes similar in coloration. Female smaller and slightly less strongly marked (Lanyon 1994).

## Habitat

Most common in native grasslands and pastures, but also in hay and alfalfa fields, weedy borders of croplands, roadsides, orchards, or other open areas; occasionally desert grassland. Preference shown for habitats with good grass and litter cover (Lanyon 1994).

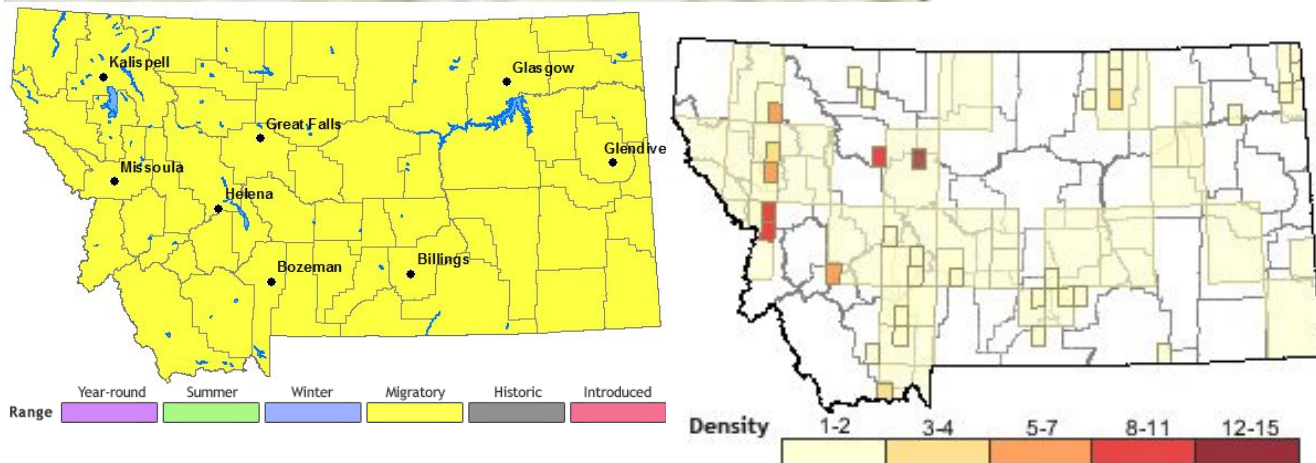


## Western Sandpiper - *Calidris mauri*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 162

### Habitat

Migrants are likely in the same areas as Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers (Johnsgard 1986).



# Western Screech-Owl - *Megascops kennicottii*



## Potential Species of Concern

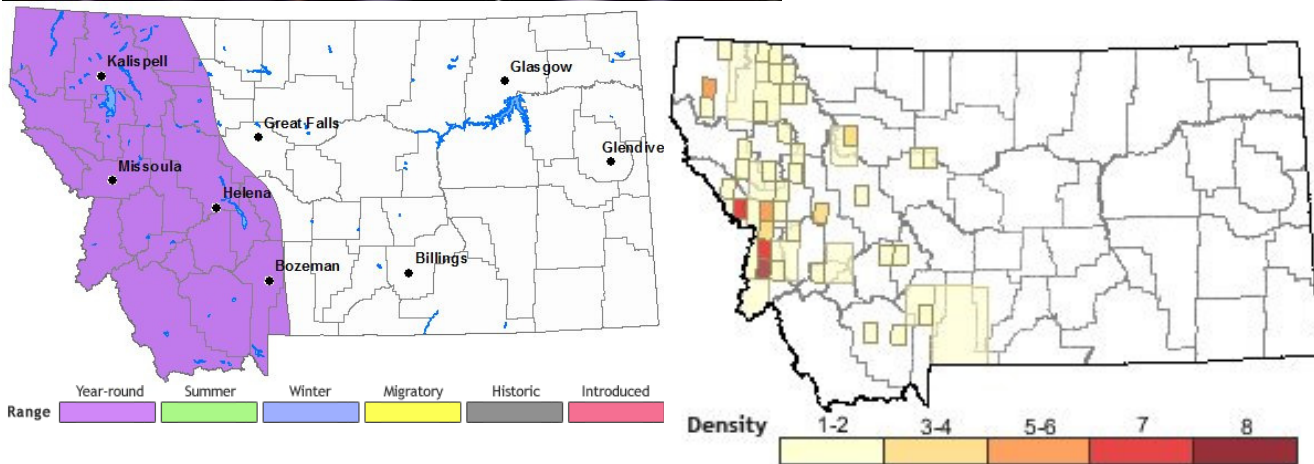
Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: S3S4

### Agency Status

USFWS:

USFS:

BLM:



Number of Observations: 114

## General Description

In Western Screech-Owls, tufts are present, eyes are yellow, the bill is black to gray-green or gray-black. The facial disk is gray and surrounded by a black border. Ventrally, they are a heavily marked owl with dark brown horizontal barring and vertical streaking, creating a uniform dark coloration. Dorsally, they are the same as ventrally, but with distinct white spotting on the shoulders. The size is eight to ten inches and the weight is six to eight ounces. They have two calls. The first call is, "toot, toot, toot toot toot toot" accelerating in tempo, similar to a bouncing ball. The second call is a trill.

## Habitat

Habitat is primarily cottonwood bottoms, but they may exist along the fringes of coniferous forests where the two habitats overlap.

## Western Scrub-Jay - *Aphelocoma californica*



**Accidental Species**

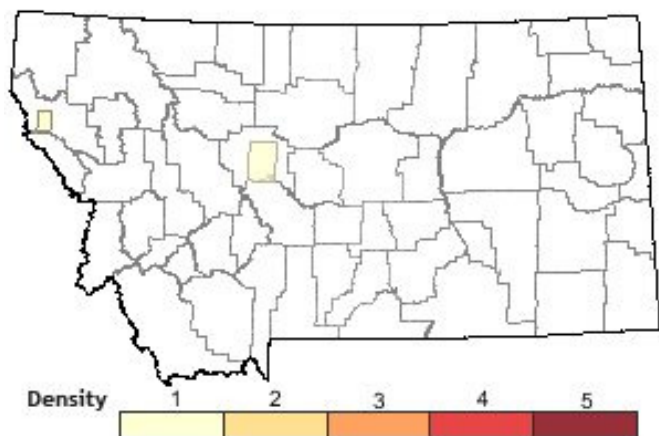
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3

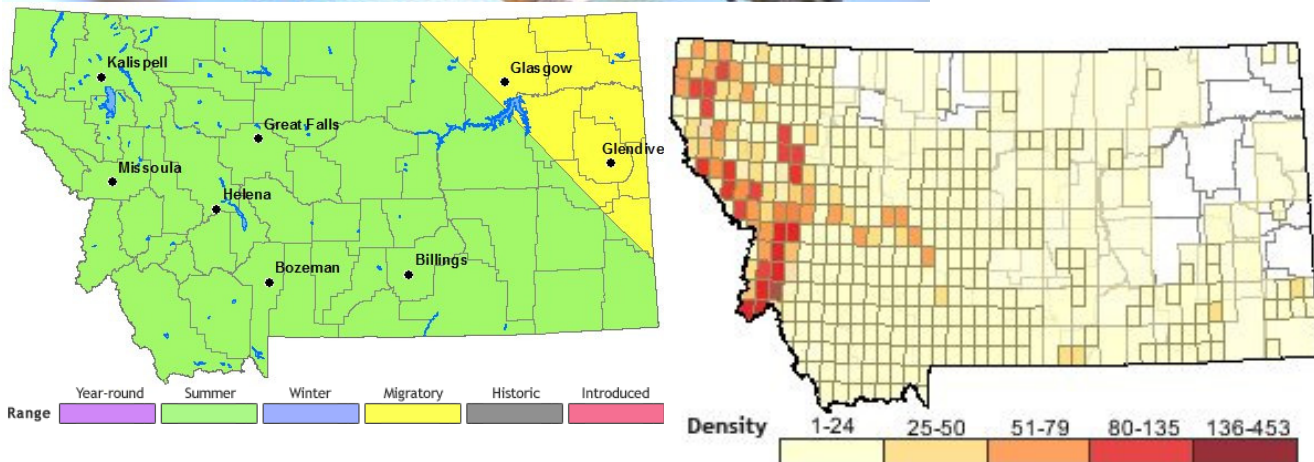
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## Western Tanager - *Piranga ludoviciana*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 15845

### General Description

Medium-sized song bird. The male is a showy yellow and black bird with a red head. The back, scapulars, wings, and tail are black. Rump, uppertail-coverts, hindneck, and underparts are bright yellow. Adult female has olive-green upperparts becoming grayish on back and scapular and yellowish on rump and uppertail-coverts. Her underparts vary from bright yellow to grayish white with yellow. Wings are grayish with 2 yellowish-white wing bars. In brighter females the anterior portion of the head may be tinged with red (Hudon 1999).

### Habitat

Favors open woodlands, but occasionally extends into fairly dense forests. During migration, frequents a wide variety of forest, woodland, scrub and partly open habitats and various human-made environments such as orchards, stands of trees in suburban areas, parks, and gardens (Hudon 1999).

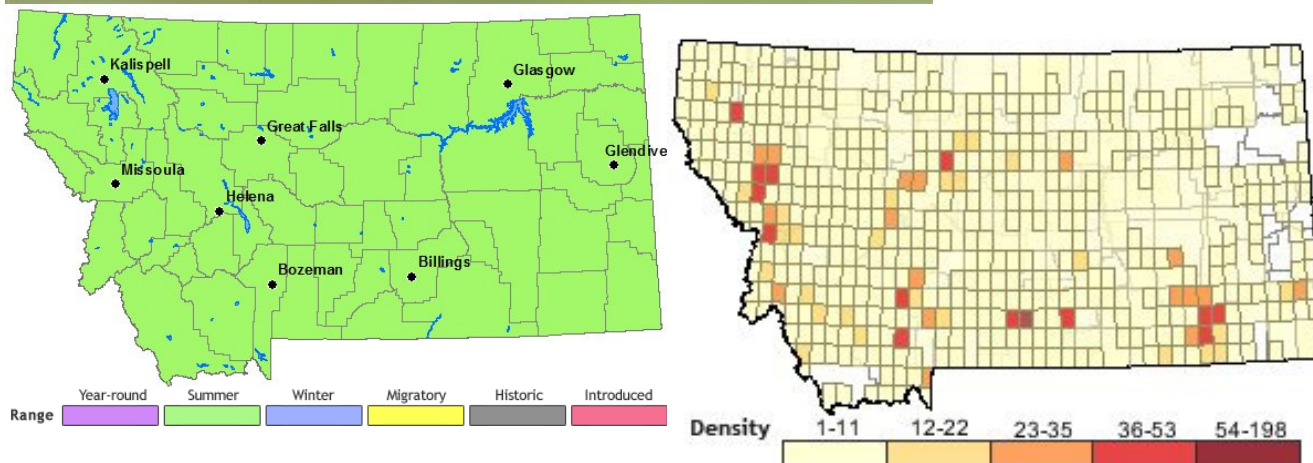


# Western Wood-Pewee - *Contopus sordidulus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 4639

## General Description

Total length is 14 to 16 cm. Female is slightly smaller than the male. Upperparts are uniformly dark grayish brown, wings have indistinct pale wing-bars and tertial edges; underparts are dull whitish becoming dusky on breast and flanks; upper mandible dark, lower mandible paler with dark tip or all dark (Bemis and Rising 1999).

## Habitat

Western Wood-pewee are seen wherever there are clearings or groves of deciduous trees along the river valleys (Davis 1961).

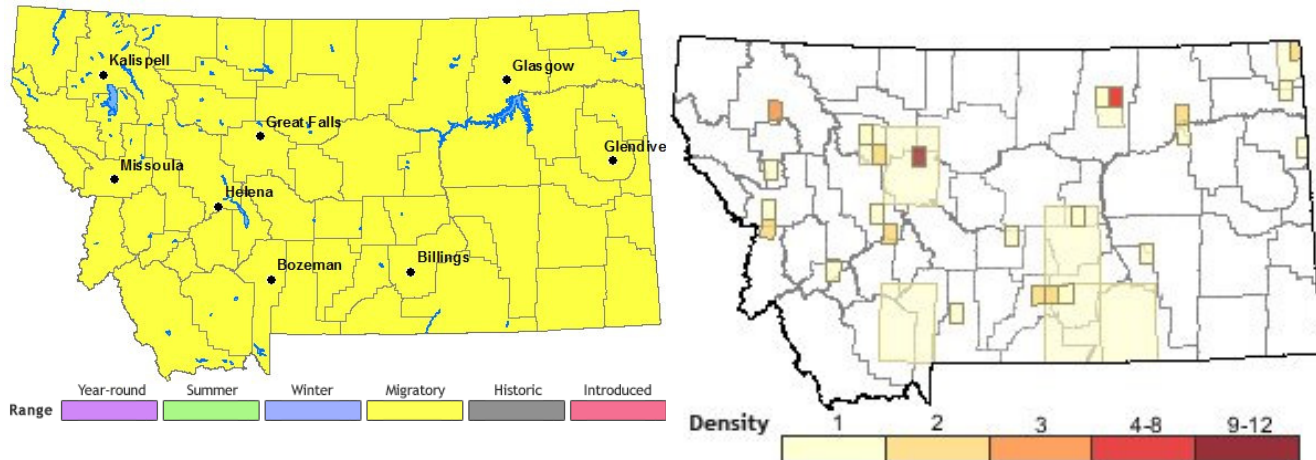


## Whimbrel - *Numenius phaeopus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 59

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# Whip-poor-will sp. - *Antrostomus* sp.



**Accidental Species**

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**

**Number of Observations:** 0

## General Description

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Previously recognized taxa now split into Mexican Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus arizonae*) and Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*). The individual observed in northwest Montana in 1990 may have been either of these newly recognized species.

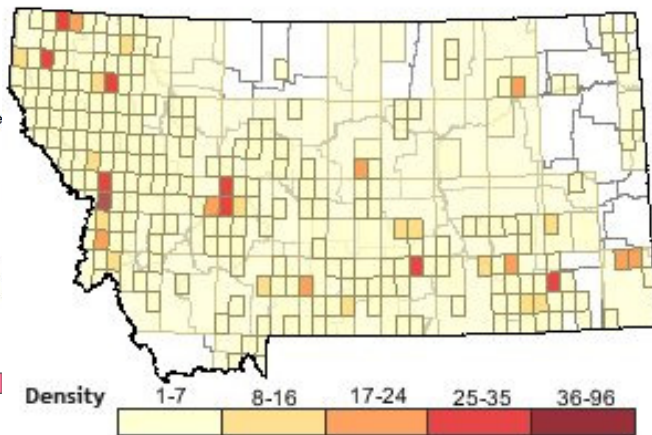
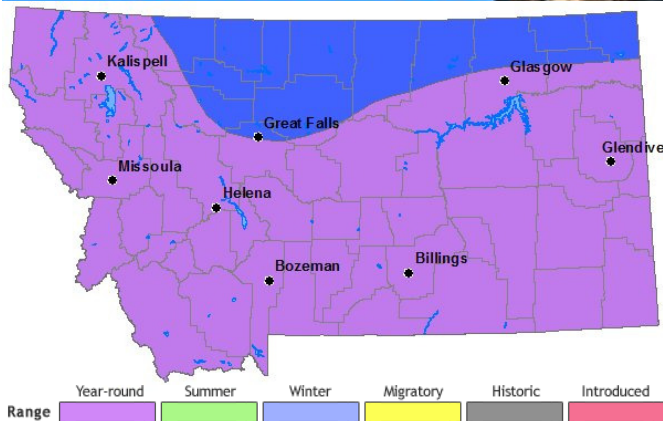
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# White-breasted Nuthatch - *Sitta carolinensis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1785

## General Description

Crown is black in males, generally grayish in females. Both sexes have white face and breast. Back is bluish-gray, wing coverts have white edging. Undertail coverts and sides rusty - intensity of this color may vary. Tail is short, with white corners visible in flight. Females duller and grayer overall than males. Bill is nearly as long as head and slightly upturned. Like other nuthatches, this species characteristically walks head downward on large branches and trunks, probing crevices in bark for its seed and insect prey (Pravosudov and Grubb 1993). See Wood (1992) for information on identification of sexes in eastern North America (females most closely resemble males in the southeastern U.S., but all can be identified correctly in the hand).

## Habitat

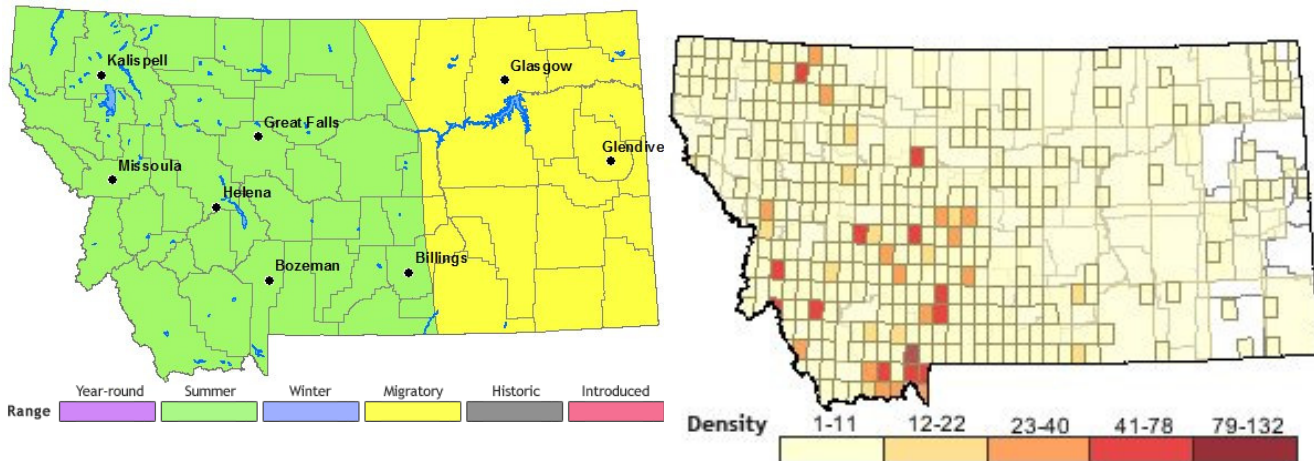
A common resident of deciduous forests in North America. Also in mixed deciduous and coniferous forests. Favors woodland edges over more central locations, preferring open areas. Over much of its range the presence of some oaks seems to be a requirement (Pravosudov and Grubb 1993).

# White-crowned Sparrow - *Zonotrichia leucophrys*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3863

## General Description

A small oscine, sexually monomorphic in plumage but geographically variable. Definitive Basic and Alternate plumages essentially the same. Top of head with 2 broad black stripes, separated by a broad median white stripe. Eyebrow-stripe white, cut off at lore by black crown-stripe in some subspecies. Narrow black line extends from eye to back of nape. Remainder of face, sides of neck, and breast gray, fading to white on throat and abdomen. Back and scapulars light gray streaked with brown. Rump and uppertail-coverts pale brownish. Wings with 2 white wing-bars. Tail dark brown. Legs grown to flesh-pink. Iris brown. Bill color varies with subspecies, pinkish brown to yellowish (Chilton et al. 1995). See Dunn et al. (1995) for detailed information on identification of subspecies.

## Habitat

Necessary habitat features of breeding territories include grass, either pure or mixed with other plants; bare ground for foraging; dense shrubs or small conifers thick enough to provide a roost and conceal a nest; standing or running water on or near territory; and tall coniferous trees, generally on periphery of territory. The first 3 features seem characteristic of nesting habitat of all populations (Chilton et al. 1995).



# White-eyed Vireo - *Vireo griseus*



**Accidental Species**

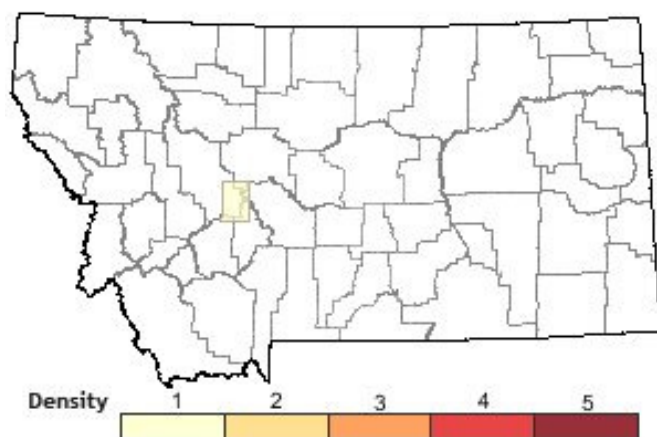
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

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# White-faced Ibis - *Plegadis chihi*



## Species of Concern

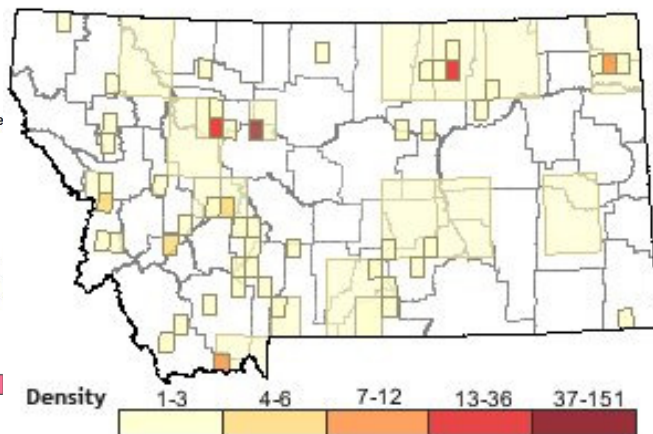
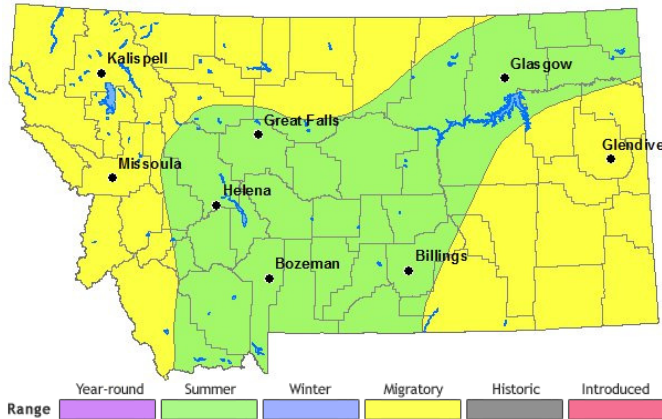
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 396

## General Description

The White-faced Ibis is a medium-sized wading bird with dark maroon or brown plumage, a long neck and legs, and a long, decurved bill. Males are almost always larger than females and adults are larger than juveniles for the first 6 to 9 months (Ryder and Manry 1994). The adult body length ranges from 46 to 56 cm (18.1 to 22.0 inches) with wingspans ranging from 94 to 99 cm (37 to 39 inches). Weight varies ranging from 450 to 525 grams (1.0 to 1.2 lb.) and the bill length averages between 15 to 18 cm (6 to 7 inches) (Ryder and Manry 1994). Male and female plumages cannot be distinguished. In the adult breeding plumage, the head, neck, upper back, wing coverts, and undersides are a dark maroon or brown with a metallic green and bronze sheen. The head of the White-faced Ibis has bare facial skin that is reddish or purple. White feathers on the head separate the forehead from the face and also encircle the eye. The eye itself is red (Ryder and Manry 1994). The bill is cream with some shades of red (Pratt 1976) and the legs are bright red. The non-breeding plumage is similar to the breeding plumage without the presence of the white face feathers. Also, the overall plumage is less glossy (Oberholser 1974), and the bill and legs become an olive-gray color (Pratt 1976). The juvenile plumage has a fuscous foreneck and anterior surface. The back, tail and wings are a dull metallic, greenish-olive and often appears oily (Palmer 1962, Oberholser 1974). When observing immature White-faced Ibises, it can be extremely difficult to separate from the closely related Glossy Ibis.

White-faced Ibises have a limited vocalization array. Single birds, pairs, and flocks often give an "oink oink" or "ka-onk ka-onk" sound (Oberholser 1974). During nest building, they often give a guttural babbling sound. Vocalizations during interspecific aggression are long "gheeeeeee" sounds and the greeting call by the male to the female is a

"geeeeek, geeeeek, geeeeek" sound (Belknap 1957).

White-faced Ibis eggs are elliptically-ovate to round shaped and range in color from a pale bluish-green to a deep turquoise, with no markings (Bent 1926, Belknap 1957, Kotter 1970, King et al. 1980). Dimensions average 51.2 to 52.26 mm by 36.0 to 37.0 mm (Bee 1933 in Kaneko 1972, Belknap 1957), and weights average 28.4 to 43.7 grams (Kotter 1970). White-faced Ibises are a single brood species, but will attempt to renest after an early nest failure.

## Habitat

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The White-faced Ibis breeding habitat is typically freshwater wetlands, including ponds, swamps and marshes with pockets of emergent vegetation. They also use flooded hay meadows and agricultural fields as feeding locations. Ibises nest in areas where water surrounds emergent vegetation, bushes, shrubs, or low trees. In Montana, White-faced Ibises usually use old stems in cattails (*Typha* spp.), hardstem bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*) or alkali bulrush (*S. paludosus*) over shallow water as their nesting habitat (DuBois 1989). Water conditions usually determine whether nesting occurs in a particular area. Therefore, White-faced Ibis nesting sites can often move around from year to year. However, they are a fairly adaptable species and the primary breeding requirement is colony and roosting site isolation. During migration, White-faced Ibises use more varied habitats for resting and feeding sites, ranging from wooded streams, mudflats, and grassy fields to small marshes and sewage ponds (Duebbert 1968, Locatelli and Blankenship 1973, Ducey 1988, Baumgartner and Baumgartner 1992).

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# White-headed Woodpecker - *Picoides albolarvatus*



**Accidental Species**

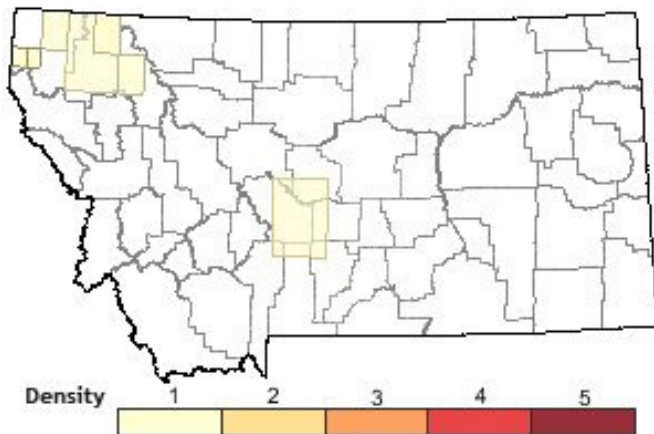
**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 7

## General Description

VOCALIZATIONS: Calls include a sharp "*pee-dink*" or "*pee-dee-dink*" given year-round, but may be less vocal outside breeding season; often calls in flight. Nestlings make "*churr*" sounds in first week, then begin to sound more cricket-like and can be head outside the nest cavity; after 2 weeks make constant "*peep*" sounds, and just before fledging transition to more typical "*pee-dink*" calls (Garrett et al. 1996; Dixon 1998).

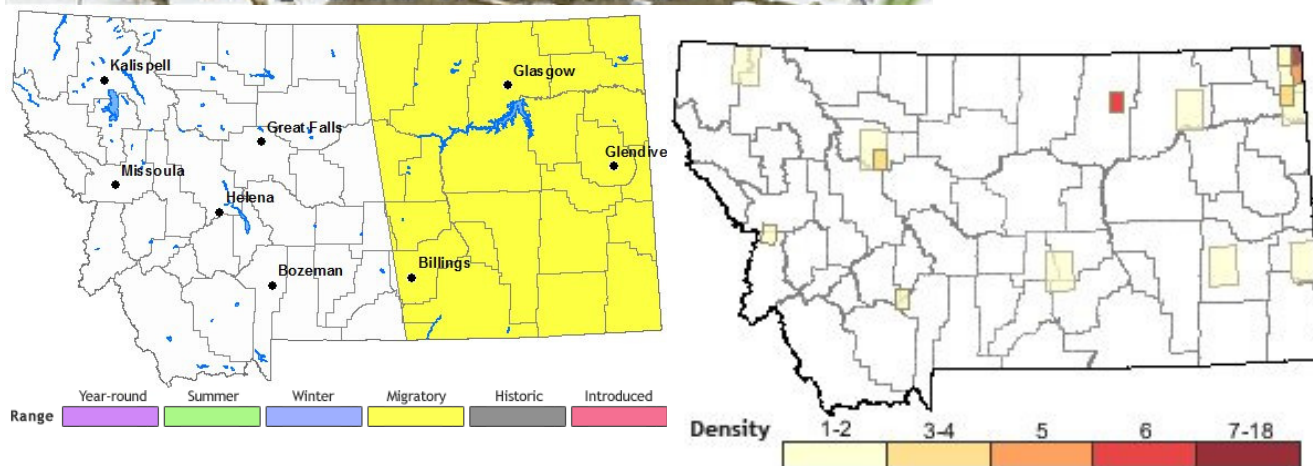


# White-rumped Sandpiper - *Calidris fuscicollis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 53

# White-tailed Kite - *Elanus leucurus*



**Accidental Species**

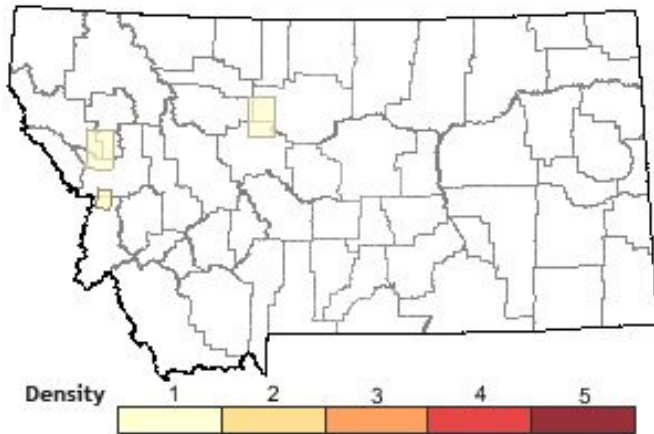
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3

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# White-tailed Ptarmigan - *Lagopus leucura*



## Species of Concern

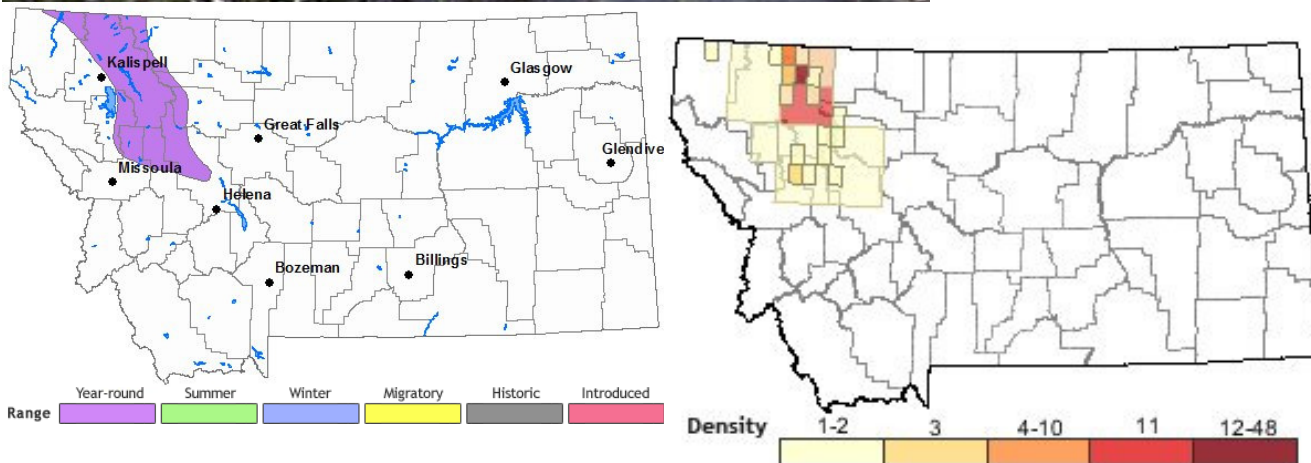
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 98

## General Description

The White-tailed Ptarmigan is a grouse of alpine (above treeline) habitats. It is the smallest grouse in North America (total length 30 to 31 cm, weight 295 to 440 grams), and the only species of grouse with white tail feathers. It possesses cryptic plumage that changes annually from white in winter to grayish-brown in summer. The sexes are similar in body size, shape, and winter plumage.

Breeding season males have a conspicuous necklace of coarsely barred brown and black breast feathers, while female plumage is predominantly brown and black with yellowish barring. Male plumage is generally more brown and gray than in the female. Males possess scarlet eye combs that are especially conspicuous during the breeding season; females have less conspicuous and smaller salmon-colored eye combs. In winter, in addition to the completely white plumage, the legs are heavily feathered to the ends of the toes, creating a snowshoe effect for walking on snow (Choate 1960, Braun et al. 1993).

## Habitat

Habitats occupied in Montana are similar in structure and composition to other locations in the species' range. These include alpine locations with a wide variety of plant habitats from dry, rocky, windswept areas to perpetually wet and mossy streamside areas; level or gently sloping sites are most favored. Moist vegetation (in recently snow-covered or stream-fed areas) and rocks are present in all areas heavily used by ptarmigan in summer, and in Glacier National Park it is often associated with dwarf willow (*Salix nivalis*), heath (*Phyllodoce* sp. and *Cassiope* sp.), and mosses. They do not occur during summer in forest or shrubby vegetation over 50 cm tall, although limited data from autumn and winter indicate ptarmigan sometimes occupy patches of krummholz (stunted and wind-deformed) trees (Choate 1963; Scott 1982). Nests are built in alpine terrain, in rocky areas or sparsely vegetated, grassy slopes. High fidelity to breeding territories in successive years tends to result in young adult birds searching for vacant territories in the natal area.

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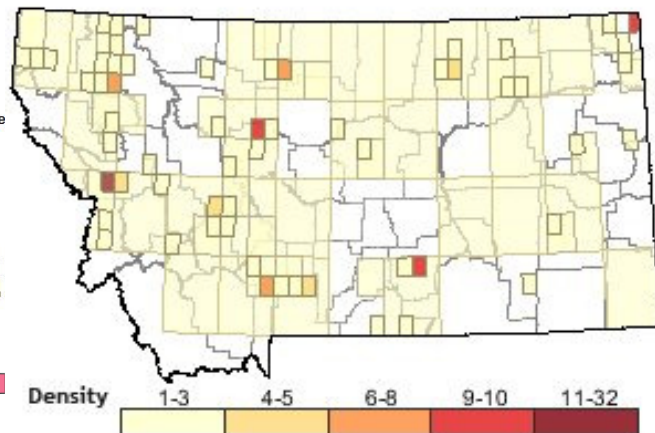
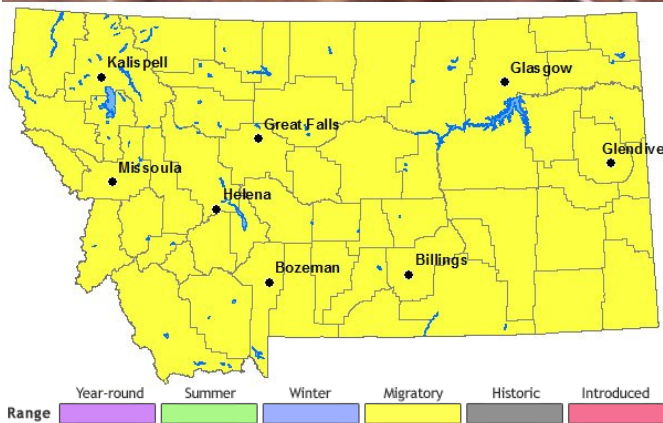


# White-throated Sparrow - *Zonotrichia albicollis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



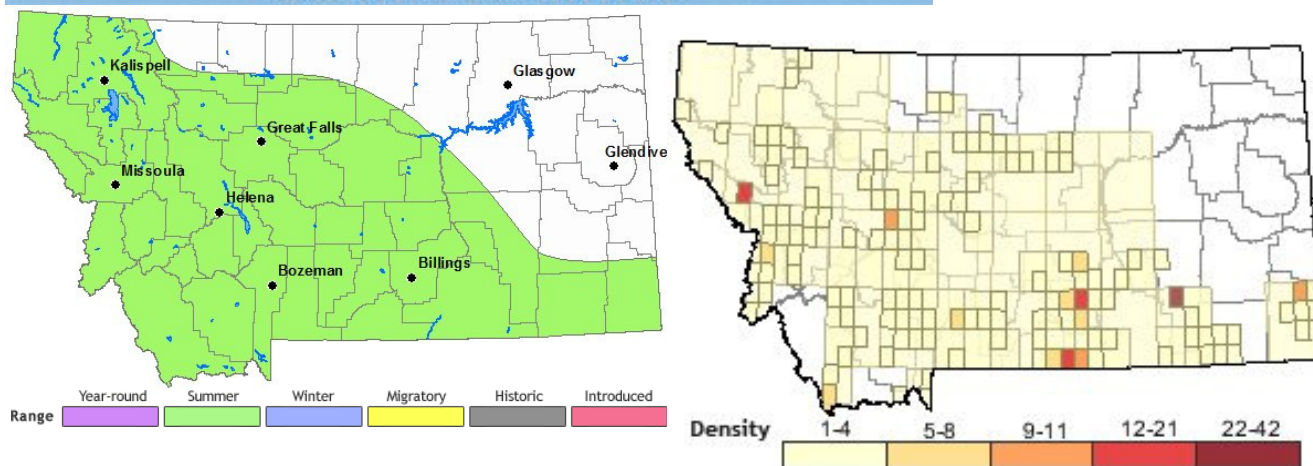
**Number of Observations:** 277

# White-throated Swift - *Aeronautes saxatalis*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 532

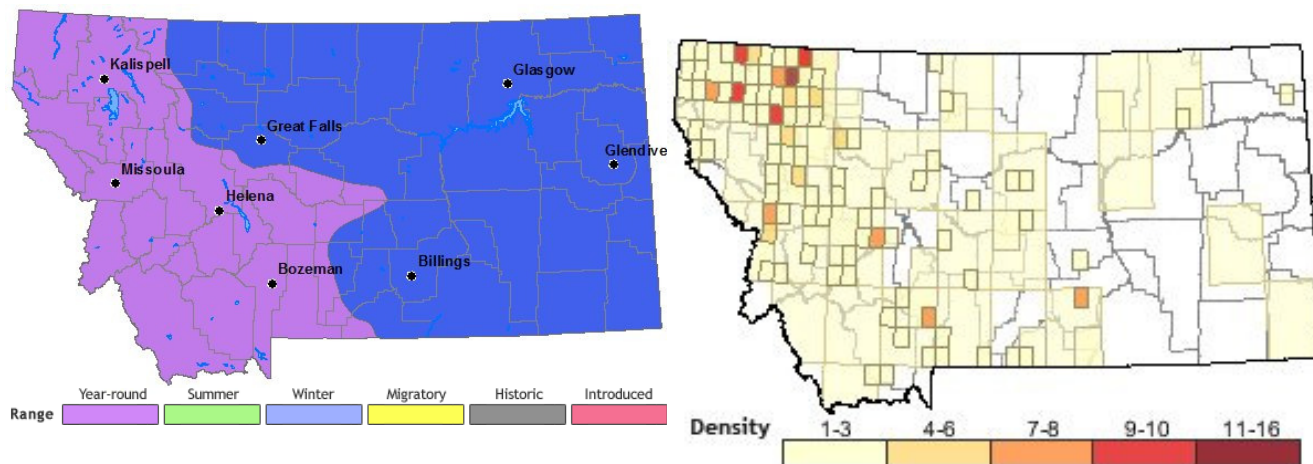
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# White-winged Crossbill - *Loxia leucoptera*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 377

## White-winged Dove - *Zenaida asiatica*



**Accidental Species**

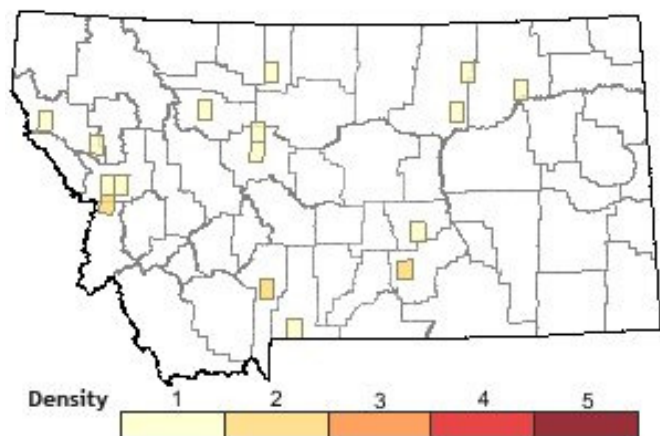
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 19

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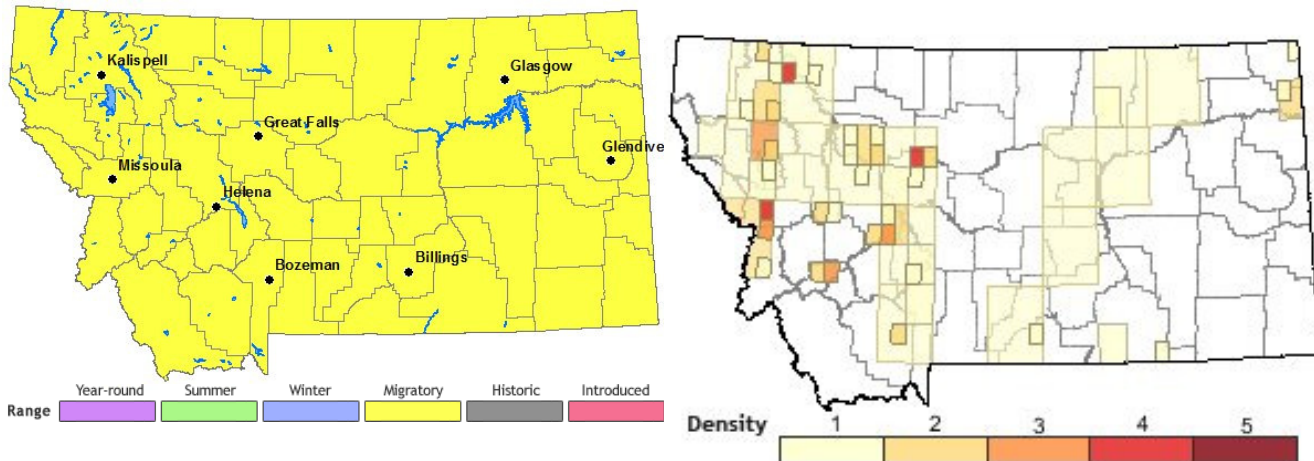


# White-winged Scoter - *Melanitta fusca*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 92

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# Whooping Crane - *Grus americana*

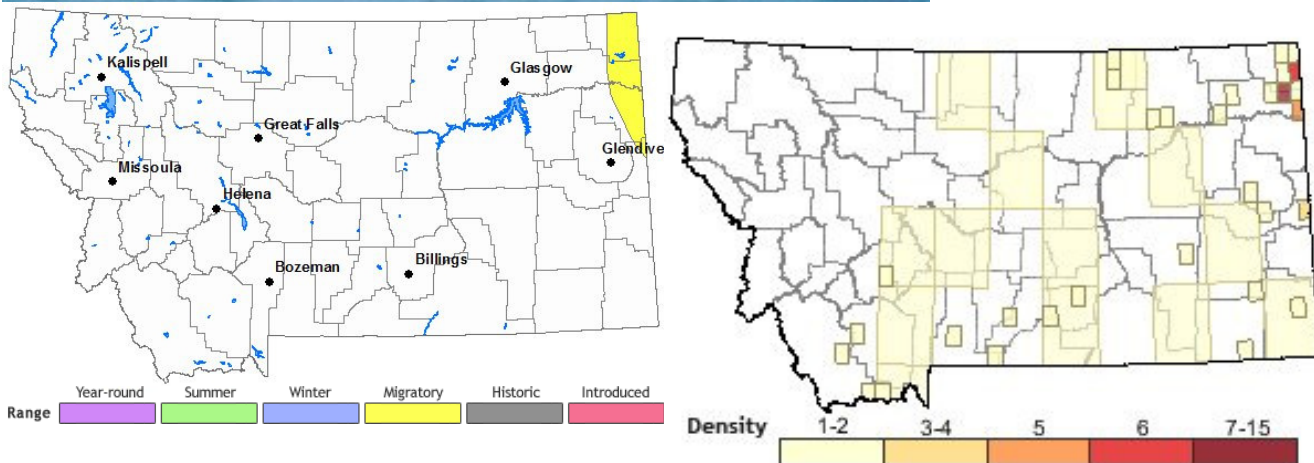


## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G1  
**State Rank:** S1M

## Agency Status

**USFWS:** LE  
**USFS:** ENDANGERED  
**BLM:** SPECIAL STATUS



**Number of Observations:** 81

## General Description

The tallest bird of North America, the Whooping Crane reaches nearly 1.5 meters in height. The sexes appear similar; adult plumage is snowy-white overall, with males generally larger than females. Black primaries, not visible when the wings are folded, contrast with the otherwise white plumage. The crown, malar, and a patch on the nape are bare, exposing red skin. These areas are covered with black bristly feathers. They are more heavily feathered on the nape patch, making it appear black in color. The lores and malar region, extending down the throat, are more sparsely covered and appear red or crimson in color. The tertial wing feathers often conceal the bird's short tail while it is standing (Lewis 1995). The bill, generally olive-colored, is tipped in dark gray. The long legs are dark gray to black, while the feet are lighter in color, nearly to light tan (Lewis 1995). The iris in young birds is a dark olive, turning to a yellow or white-yellow as the birds mature (Lewis 1995).

The vocalization of the Whooping Crane is the feature that defines its common name. The call is described as a clear, loud, bugling "bKAAAH", high-pitched and longer than that of the Sandhill Crane (Sibley 2000). When alarmed, individuals give a loud, single note call (Lewis 1995). The loud resonating calls may be heard up to two miles away (Johnsgard 1986).

## Habitat

The Whooping Crane has been observed in the marsh habitat present at Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. Observations of individual birds in other areas of the state include grain and stubble fields as well as wet meadows, wet prairie habitat, and freshwater marshes that are usually shallow and broad with safe roosting sites and nearby foraging opportunities (Lenard et al. 2003).

# Wild Turkey - *Meleagris gallopavo*



**Exotic Species (not native to Montana)**

**Global Rank:** G5

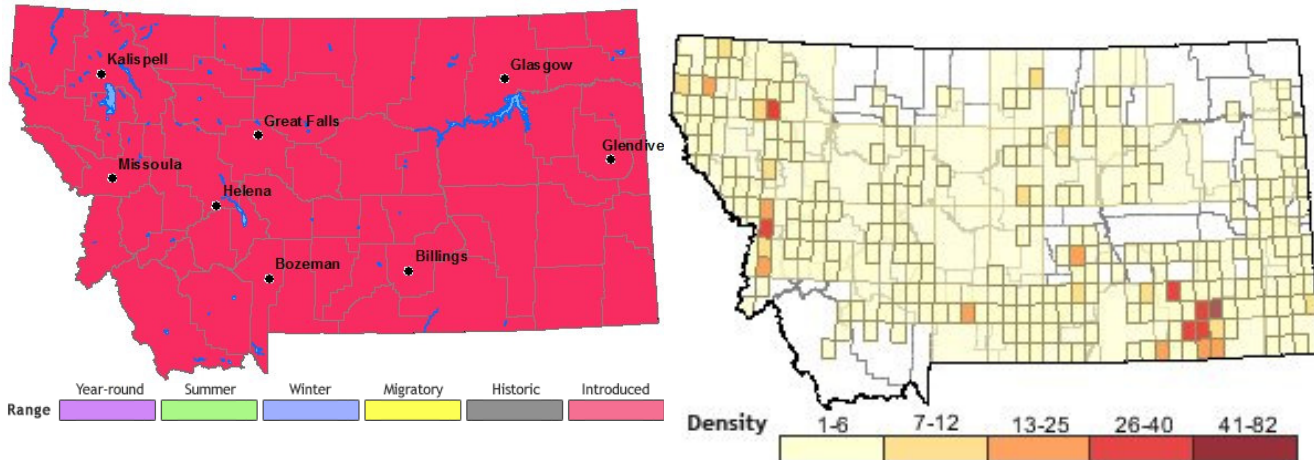
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1471

## General Description

The large size, iridescent bronze plumage, and naked bluish head should distinguish Wild Turkeys from all other birds. Males have a prominent red neck wattle, a beard, and spurs on their legs. Their back and breast feathers are tipped with black. Females are smaller, less brightly colored, and generally lack a beard (a few females have beards up to 3 inches in length). The back and breast feathers of females are tipped with yellowish brown or white. Adult males average 48 inches in length and 16.3 pounds in weight, while adult females average 34 inches in length and 9.3 pounds in weight.

## Habitat

Open ponderosa pine forest in rugged terrain, interspersed with grassland and brushy draws is the preferred habitat. Open ponderosa pine-grassland cover types are most widely used in the Longpine Hills during summer and early fall; canyon bottoms at lower elevations, grain fields and livestock feeding areas are utilized in late fall and winter (Rose 1956).

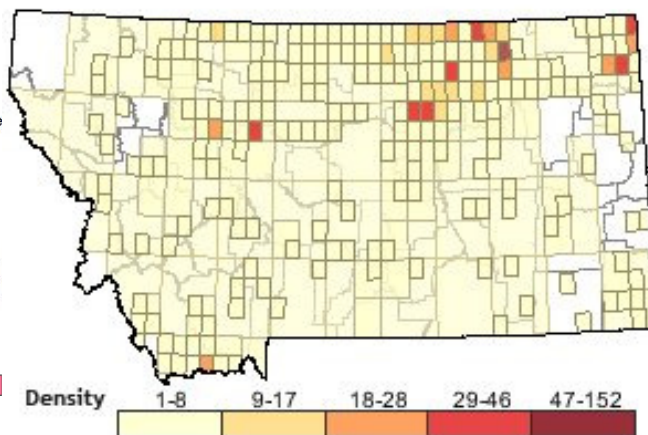
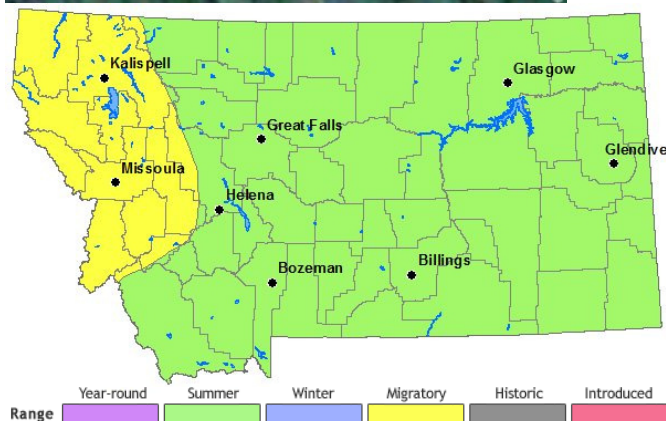


# Willet - *Tringa semipalmata*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1857

## General Description

Large (length 33 to 41 cm; mass 200 to 300 g), gray to brownish-gray sandpiper with white lower rump to base of tail and distinctive black and white wing pattern - "the Willet remains brown and inconspicuous until it opens its wings, displaying an unusually broad white wing-stripe that runs across the primaries and secondaries, bordered in black". Sexes similar in plumage and overall size, female slightly larger in mass. In Alternate plumage, head, neck, and remainder of body subtly barred and streaked darker, but Basic plumage largely plain brownish gray (Lowther et al. 2001).

## Habitat

Western breeding range on the prairies, uses short, sparse cover in wetlands and grasslands; on semiarid plains near bodies of water; in grasslands associated with shallow wetlands; to a lesser extent croplands (Lowther et al. 2001).

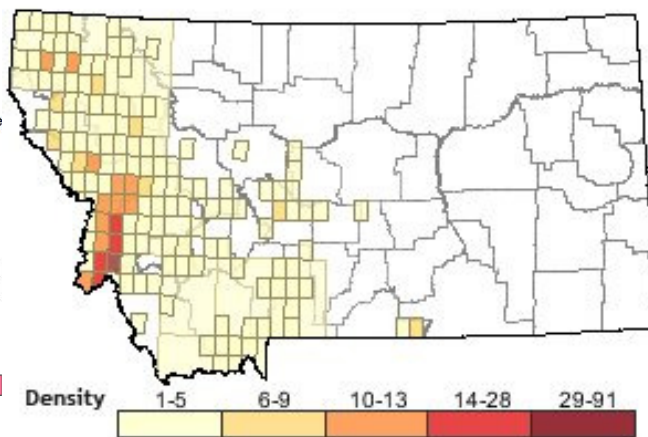
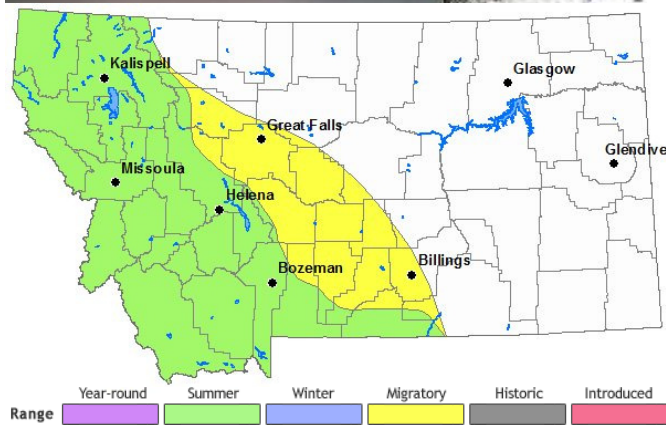


# Williamson's Sapsucker - *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



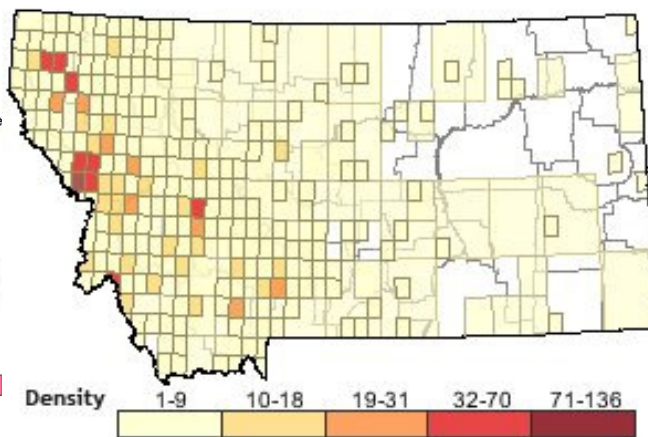
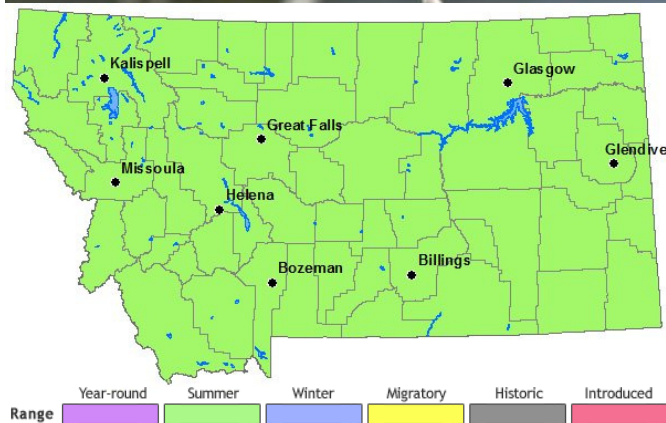
**Number of Observations:** 804

# Willow Flycatcher - *Empidonax traillii*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2958

## General Description

A flycatcher with brownish-olive upperparts (slightly grayer in the east), a whitish throat that contrasts with the pale olive breast, a pale yellow belly, and two light wing bars; generally lacks a conspicuous eye ring; as in other flycatchers, the bill is depressed and wide at the base.

# Willow Ptarmigan - *Lagopus lagopus*



**Accidental Species**

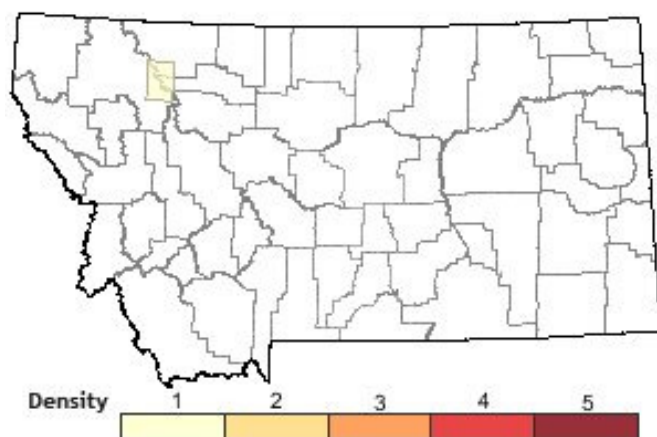
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1

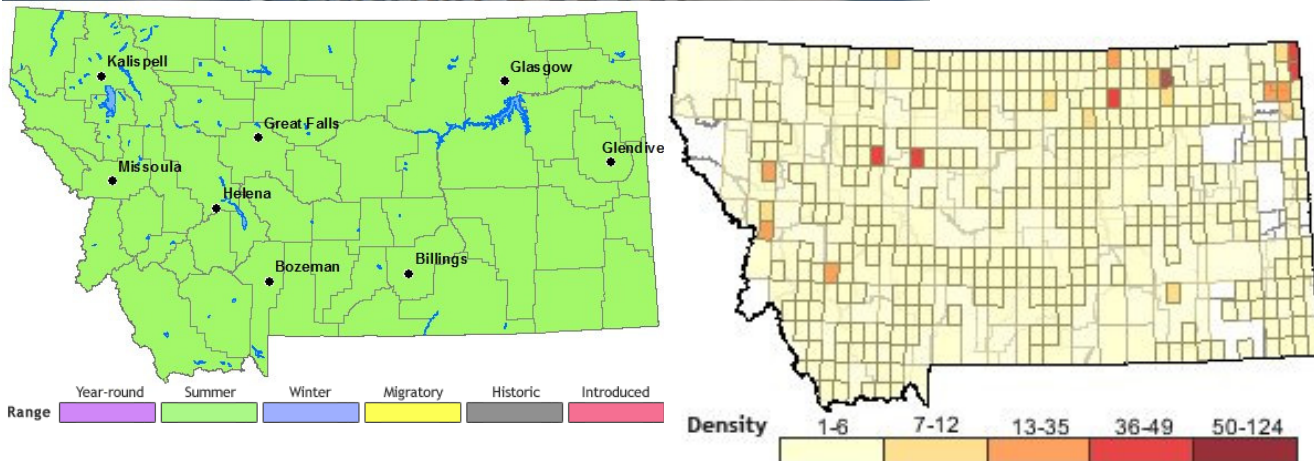
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# Wilson's Phalarope - *Phalaropus tricolor*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S4B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1847

## General Description

Small (22 to 24 cm) aquatic sandpiper with fringed toes, needle-like bill, white underparts and rump. During the breeding season, larger females are more brightly plumaged than males. Breeding females possess pale blue gray forehead and crown; white supercilium borders black streak that passes from lores, through and below the eye, down sides of neck; white streak trails from back of head, down nape to upper back; throat cinnamon buff; chestnut scapulars and mantle; wings gray brown and underparts and rump white; tail pale grayish; bill black, legs grayish to black. Breeding males are smaller and generally less brightly plumaged. Nonbreeding plumage of both sexes: pale gray above and underparts and rump white (Colwell and Jehl 1994).

## Habitat

During spring, the species is widespread in the valley in lakes, ponds and flooded fields. Summer birds are restricted to marshy borders of lakes and ponds (Skaar 1969).

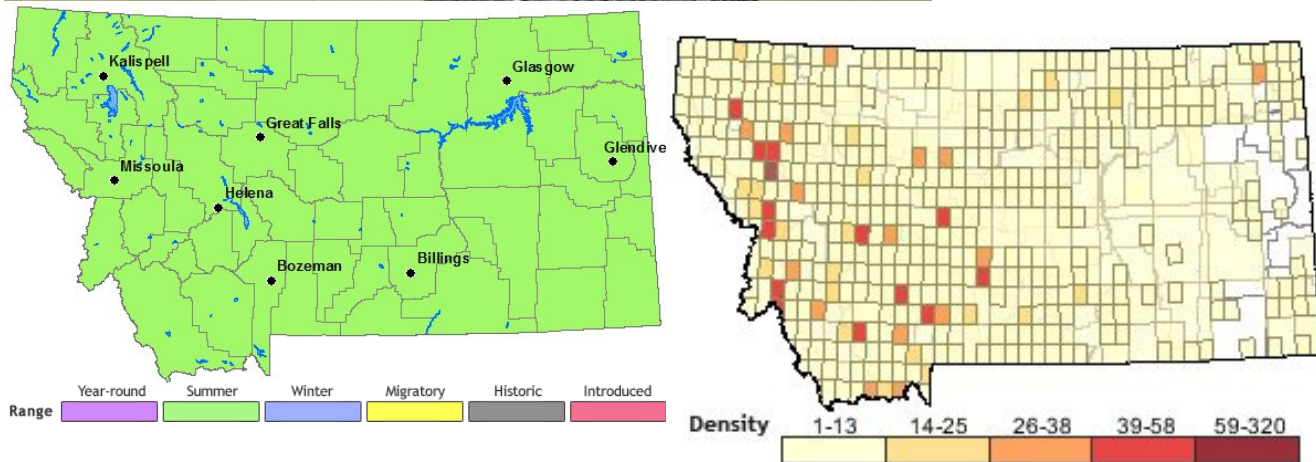


# Wilson's Snipe - *Gallinago delicata*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 4913

## General Description

The usual view of the Wilson's Snipe is as it flushes from grass or sedges, escaping in rapid, zigzag flight while uttering a rasping "scaipe." It is a medium-sized sandpiper (length about 28 cm, mass about 100 g), with long straight bill (about 6 cm). Sexually monomorphic plumage; no obvious seasonal or age differences. Crown striped with black and buffy, upperparts a mixture of brown, black, and gray, forming spots and barring; light colored spots tend to form 4 lines running down the back; tail appears russet. Underparts mostly white, but neck and breast heavily streaked or spotted with brown (Mueller 1999.)

## Habitat

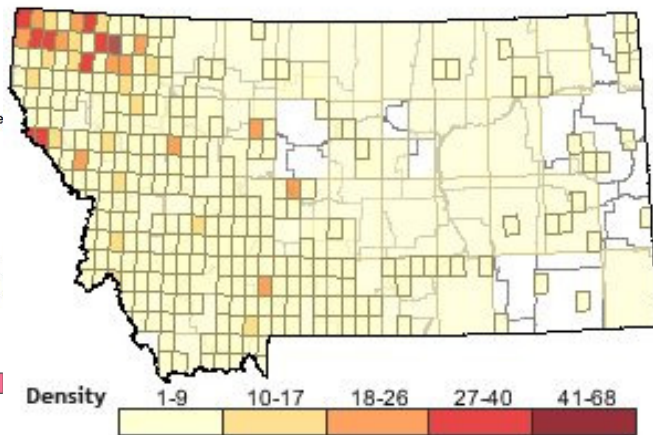
In the Bozeman area, summer birds are widely distributed in the valley in moist meadows. In winter, they occur along warm, bog-bordered streams in the valley (Skaar 1969). Breeds in sedge bogs, fens, willow and alder swamps, and marshy edges of ponds, rivers, and brooks. Requires soft organic soil rich in food organisms just below surface, with clumps of vegetation offering both cover and good view of approaching predators. Avoids marshes with tall, dense vegetation (cattails, reeds, etc.) (Mueller 1999).

# Wilson's Warbler - *Cardellina pusilla*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2280

## General Description

Small. Length 10 to 12cm, mass 5.4 to 10.5 g. Adult male in breeding plumage has upperparts uniformly yellowish olive green; forehead supercilium, lores and entire underparts lemon yellow, and crown glossy black forming a prominent cap on top of head. Black eye stands out on yellow face. Breeding adult female is similar but duller overall with a crown that is highly variable - may be entirely olive, black with olive mottling, black with olive tips or uniformly black (Ammon and Gilbert 1999).

## Habitat

Breeding territories are usually located in riparian habitat or wet meadows with extensive deciduous shrub thickets. Likes edges of beaver ponds, lakes, bogs and overgrown clear-cuts of montane and boreal zones (Ammon and Gilbert 1999).

# Winter Wren - *Troglodytes hiemalis*



**Accidental Species**

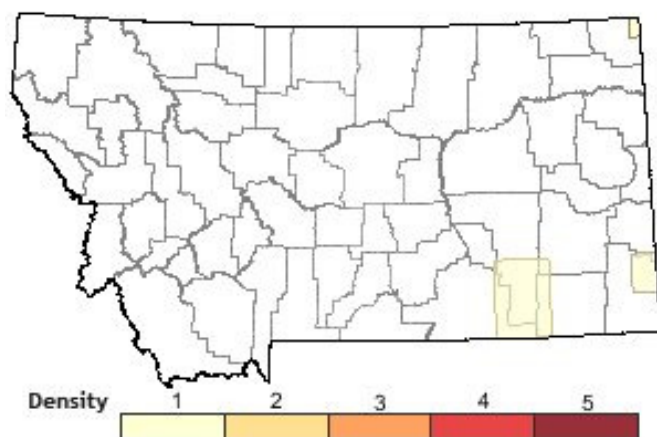
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNR

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3

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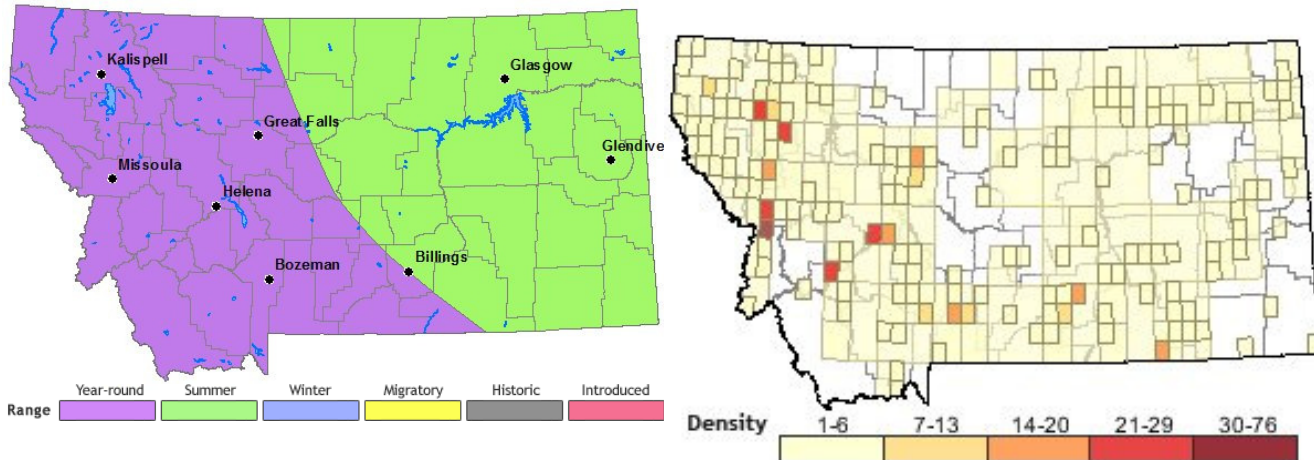


## Wood Duck - *Aix sponsa*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 941

### General Description

Small to medium sized duck with crested head, broad wings, and large, rectangularly shaped tail. Sexes dimorphic in Alternate plumage. Male has distinctive facial pattern (iridescent green and purple head; white throat with fingerlike extensions onto cheek and neck; red eye; long green, purple, and white crest; and burgundy breast) and overall colorful plumage. The brownish to gray female Wood Duck is distinguished by a pronounced white patch around the eye, white throat, and gray crest. Males in Basic plumage and juveniles resemble adult females (Hepp and Bellrose 1995).

### Habitat

Wide variety of habitats: creeks, rivers, overflow, bottomlands, swamps, marshes, beaver and farm ponds (Hepp and Bellrose 1995). In the Bozeman area it is found most of the time in quiet sloughs in mature cottonwood forests (Skaar 1969).



# Wood Stork - *Mycteria americana*



**Accidental Species**

**Global Rank:** G4

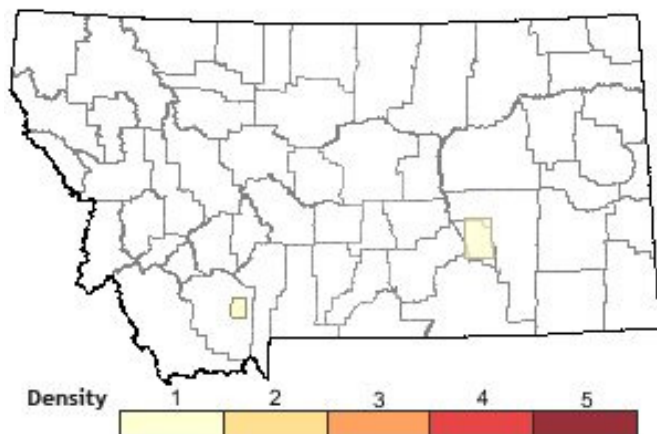
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2

## General Description

A large, tall bird with long, broad wings; black flight feathers and tail contrast with white body; adult has bare, dark-gray head (feathered and grayish brown in immature); bill is long, thick, and downcurved; averages 102 cm long, 155 cm wingspan.

# Wood Thrush - *Hylocichla mustelina*



**Accidental Species**

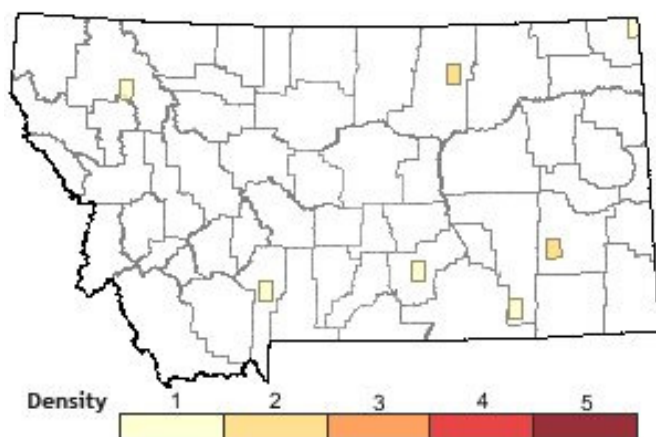
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 9

## General Description

Length 20 cm. Sexes similar. Reddish-brown above, brightest on crown and nape; rump and tail brownish-olive. Bold white eye ring conspicuous on streaked face. Whitish below, with large dark spots on throat, breast, and sides.

**VOCALIZATIONS:** Loud, liquid song of three- to five-note phrases, most notes differing in pitch, each phrase usually ending with a complex trill. Calls include a rapid "*pit pit pit*".

**NEST:** firm, compact cup of grasses, bark, moss, paper, mixed with leaf mold, mud; molded by contours of female's body; lined with rootlets. Outside diameter 10.2 to 14 cm, height 5.1 to 14.6 cm; inside diameter 7 by 8.3 cm, depth 3.2 to 5.1 cm.

**EGGS:** average size 25.4 by 18.6 mm; typically oval; shell is smooth, has slight gloss; pale blue or bluish green and unmarked.

# Yellow Rail - *Coturnicops noveboracensis*

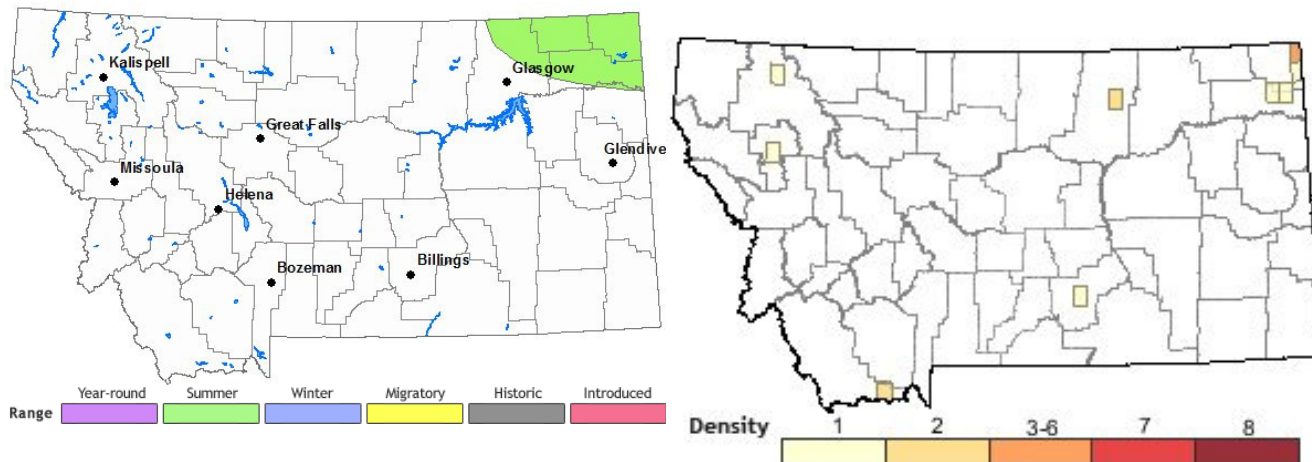


## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** S3B

## Agency Status

**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 16

## General Description

The Yellow Rail is a secretive, often overlooked bird as it prefers to run and hide instead of flying when flushed. The smallest rail in Montana, the Yellow Rail measures 7.25 inches in length, has a wingspan of 11 inches, and weighs up to 55 grams. The sexes are similar in plumage; generally yellow-buff, with a dark brownish-black crown and buffy-brown back streaked with deep brown and black. The feathers of the lower back, scapulars, and tertials have at least 2 distinctive white bars. The chin and upper throat are light- to nearly-white, and the legs are brownish to greenish (Bookhout 1995, Sibley 2000). Though similar in appearance, males are generally larger than females and have an entirely yellow bill during the breeding season, which returns to the olive-green of the female in the fall (Bookhout 1995). The iris appears dark but is yellowish-brown to reddish in the adults (Bookhout 1995). The chicks have a pink bill and are black in color. The bill fades and eventually becomes black in its juvenile stage. The juveniles are of a similar appearance to their parents, but are more speckled overall and the dark patterning on the head is less distinct. The bill is olive-green (Sibley 2000).

The vocalization of the species, by both sexes, is described as a series of clicking noises, usually in a 5-note pattern, "click-click-click-click-click", each click lasting for 0.1 second and spaced 0.1 to 0.25 second apart (Bookhout 1995). Other calls may include a ten note descending cackle, with three or four notes that sound like distant knocking on a door, soft croaking, or quiet wheezing or clucking notes (Sibley 2000). Although calling usually occurs during the night, with the males sometimes calling incessantly, diurnal activity has also been reported (Bookhout 1995). Young chicks and juveniles give various sounds described as "wees" and "peeps" (Savaloja 1981).

## Habitat

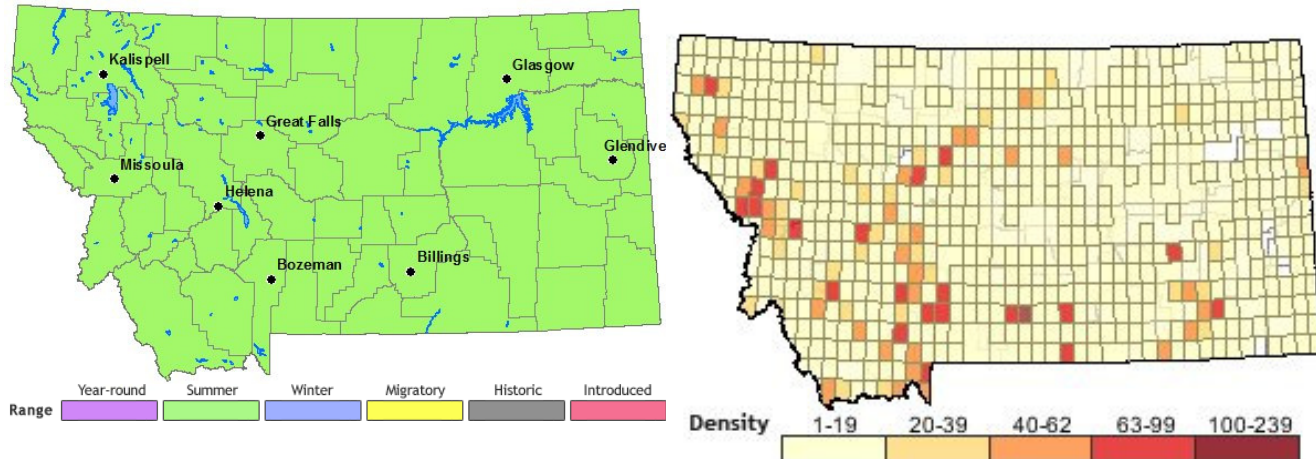
Breeding habitat selection is similar to that of other locations, and consists of wet sedge (*Carex* spp.) meadows and other wetlands containing grasses, rushes (*Juncus* spp.) and bulrushes (*Scirpus* spp) (Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center 2003). Presence of the Yellow Rail is most commonly dictated by water depth, specifically one that fluctuates throughout the breeding season, i.e. wet in the early part of the breeding season and relatively dry (no standing water) by July or September (Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center 2003).

# Yellow Warbler - *Setophaga petechia*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 11237

## General Description

Medium-sized 12 to 13 cm, 9 to 11 g. Plumage more extensively yellow than most other wood-warblers. Face, throat, and remaining underparts bright yellow, variably streaked with chestnut below throat. Upperparts yellow-green to olive with wing feathers edged yellow. Dark eye stands out on relatively unmarked face. Rather short-tailed (Lowther et al. 1999). See Kaufman (1991) for detailed information on identification. See Wiedenfeld (1991) for information on geographical variation in male morphology.

## Habitat

Found throughout much of North America in habitats categorized as wet, deciduous thickets. Found especially in those dominated by willows (Lowther et al. 1999).

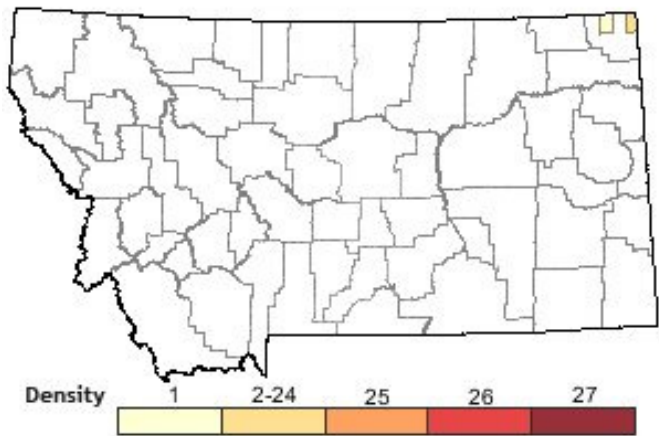


# Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - *Empidonax flaviventris*



Global Rank: G5  
State Rank: SNA

Agency Status  
USFWS:  
USFS:  
BLM:



Number of Observations: 25

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# Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - *Sphyrapicus varius*



**Accidental Species**

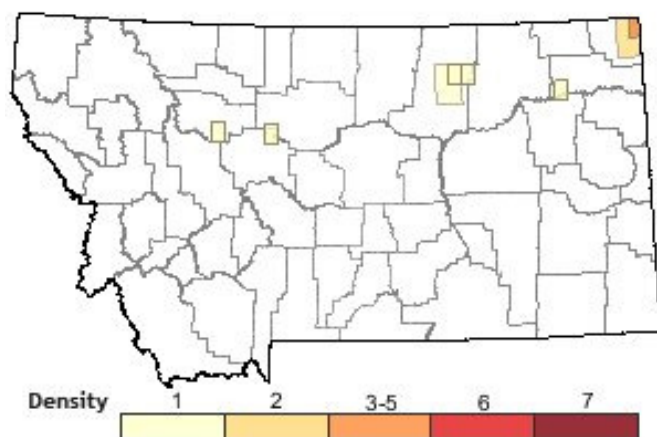
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 14

## General Description

See Devillers (1970) and Dunn (1978) for detailed information on identification.

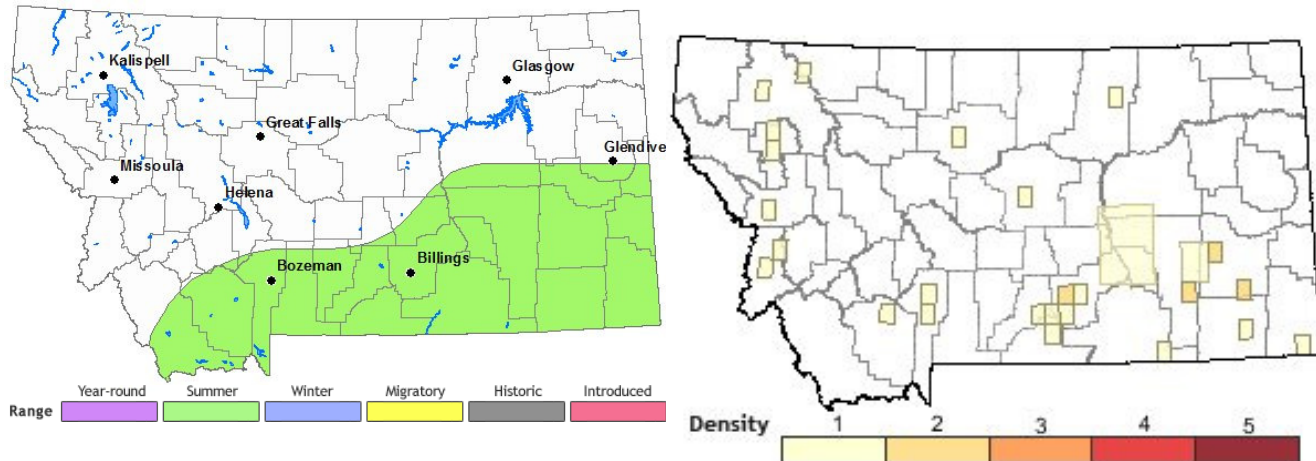
# Yellow-billed Cuckoo - *Coccyzus americanus*



## Species of Concern

**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S3B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:** PS:C  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:** SENSITIVE



**Number of Observations:** 32

## General Description

A slender bird with a long, distinctly patterned tail and white throat and breast, the back and head of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo are a plain grayish-brown. Consistent with its common name, the stout, somewhat curved bill is primarily yellow (the upper mandible is mostly black, with some yellow, while the lower mandible is yellow in its entirety). The boldly white and black patterned outer tail feathers, or rectrices, which from underneath give the appearance of 6 large white spots, can generally be observed during perching and in flight. The rufous primary feathers of this cuckoo are largely only visible in flight. The bird is generally 26 to 30 cm in length and weighs an average 55 to 65 grams (Hughes 1999). Females are slightly larger than males. The feet of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo are similar to that of the woodpeckers, they are zygodactylous; the two outer toes point backward while the two inner toes point forward (Hughes 1999).

## Habitat

Throughout their range, preferred breeding habitat includes open woodland (especially where undergrowth is thick), parks, and deciduous riparian woodland. In the West, they nest in tall cottonwood and willow riparian woodlands. Nests are found in trees, shrubs or vines, an average of 1 to 3 meters above ground (Harrison 1979). Western subspecies require patches of at least 10 hectares (25 acres) of dense, riparian forest with a canopy cover of at least 50 percent in both the understory and overstory. Nests are typically found in mature willows (Biosystems Analysis 1989). This bird is rarely found at higher elevations (Johnsgard 1996).

# Yellow-billed Loon - *Gavia adamsii*



**Accidental Species**

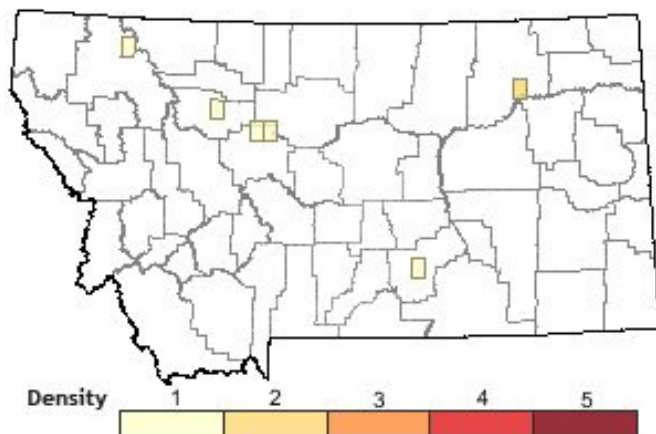
**Global Rank:** G4  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 8

## General Description

See Stallcup (1994) for information on identification of North American loons.

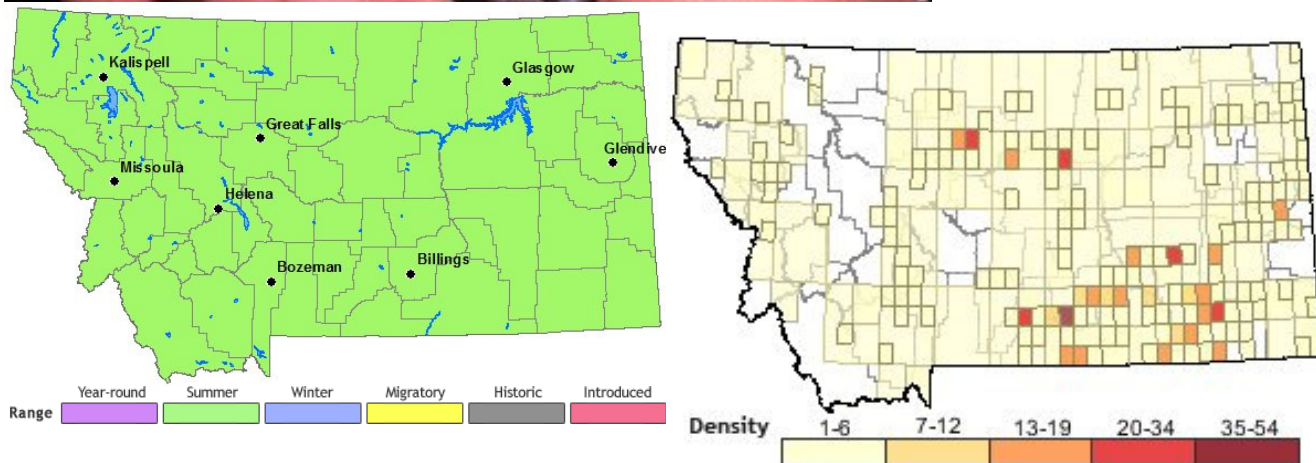


# Yellow-breasted Chat - *Icteria virens*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 1173

## General Description

The largest wood warbler: robust build, large bill with strongly curved culmen, long tail, and distinctive plumage distinguish this species from all other wood-warblers and similarly colored songbirds. Upper parts olive-green to grayish-olive; chin, throat, and breast lemon-yellow (sometimes tinged with orange), contrasting with mainly white belly and under tail-coverts. Face grayish with black lores, white supercillium, and white eye-crescent on lower eyelid. Sexes very similar, but during breeding season, female has grayish lores, gray lower mandible, and pink mouth-lining, in contrast to male's black. Little seasonal change although upperparts more brownish, yellow underparts more olive, and flanks more buffy or brownish, and bill more brownish in winter (Eckerle and Thompson 2001).

## Habitat

Found in low, dense vegetation without a closed tree canopy, including shrubby habitat along stream, swamp, and pond margins; forest edges, regenerating burned-over forest, and logged areas; and fencerows and upland thickets of recently abandoned farmland (Eckerle and Thompson 2001).

# Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - *Nyctanassa violacea*



**Accidental Species**

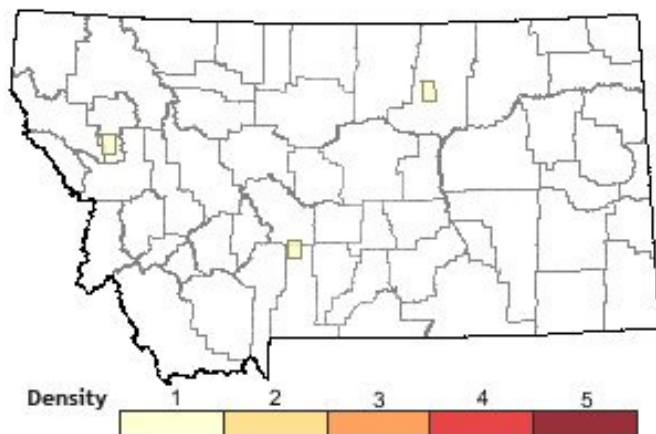
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3

## General Description

A stocky heron with a straight, stout, all-dark bill; breeding adult has buffy-white crown, black face with white cheek patch, gray underparts, and long white head plumes; juvenile has dusky upperparts with fine white streaks and spots, and dark-streaked underparts; average length 61 cm, wingspan 107 cm. Call is a high-pitched "quak," often uttered in series.

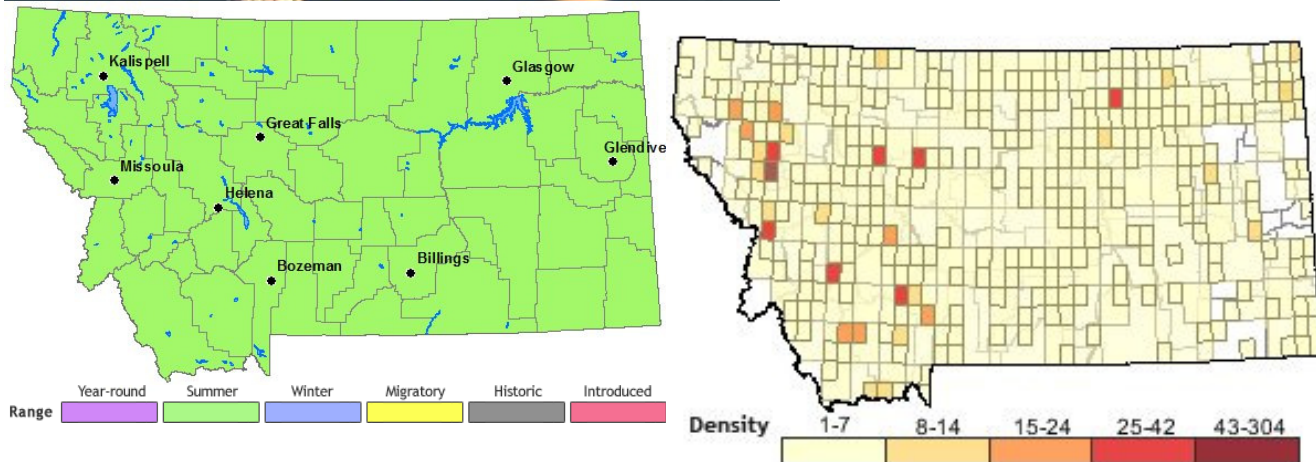
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# Yellow-headed Blackbird - *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 2563

## General Description

Large-bodied passerine, sexually dimorphic in size and plumage. Male mass 100 g, length 265 mm, nearly twice the mass of the female and longer by 50 mm. Adult male unmistakable: saffron yellow head, neck, and breast; body plumage, lore, and eye-stripe black, except for prominent white wing-patches visible in flight. Female and young male more muted in plumage: bodies dull black and brown, with pale yellow primarily on breast and throat, but also on neck and eyebrow stripe. White streaking merges yellow breast with brown abdomen. In both sexes, feet and bill black (Twedt and Crawford 1995).

## Habitat

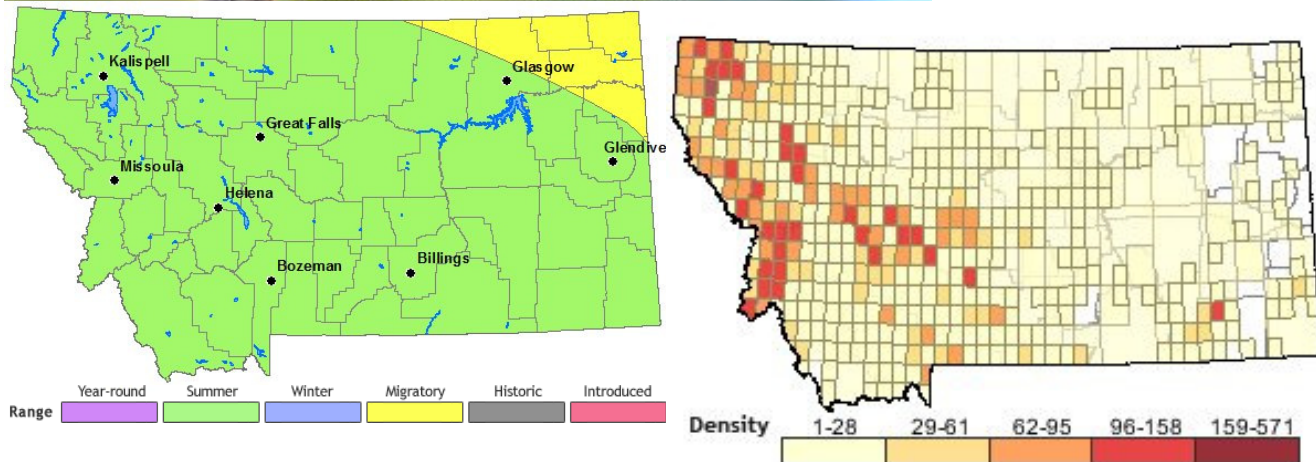
Primarily prairie wetlands, but also common in wetlands associated with quaking aspen parklands, mountain meadows, and arid regions. Scattered colonies occur on forest edges and on larger lakes in mixed-wood boreal forest (Twedt and Crawford 1995).

# Yellow-rumped Warbler - *Setophaga coronata*



**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 21596

## General Description

A large warbler, averaging 14 cm long and 12 to 13 g. There are two well-marked subspecies groups - Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata coronata*) and Audubon's Warbler (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*). All plumages and subspecies possess the yellow rump that gives the species its name. Myrtle Warbler: adult male in breeding plumage is gray above, with black streaks on back; yellow crown-patch; black cheeks; white throat; and black breast, with yellow patches on sides. Distinct face pattern of black auriculars bordered by white supraloral spot, white postocular stripe, and white along lower rear portion of ear-coverts. Wings and tail black, with white wing-bars and white tail-spots. Adult female in Alternate plumage similar, but brown above and streaked below; auriculars brown or gray instead of black. In all Basic plumages, retains overall plumage pattern, including yellow areas and wing and tail marking, but body plumage is brown or brownish gray above and whitish below and black patches on ear-coverts and breast are lacking. Audubon's Warbler is similar but differs in having yellow throat, relatively plain face lacking postocular stripe, cheeks gray to blackish not contrasting with crown, more tail-feathers with white spots, white in wing usually more extensive. Head and back of adult Alternate-plumaged male varies from gray to completely black. Adults are easily distinguished from adults of other species that have yellow or yellowish rumps by having white and black versus yellow underparts (Hunt and Flaspohler 1998).

## Habitat

Breeding range: predominantly mature coniferous and mixed coniferous-deciduous habitats. Migration: variety of habitats, although generally less common in forest interiors. In deserts of southwestern U.S., avoids arid lowland habitats and tends to occur at higher elevations in fall than in spring. Winter range: open areas, including second growth, edges, agricultural and residential areas, dunes, marshes, and shrublands; also a variety of relatively open forest types (Hunt and Flaspohler 1998).



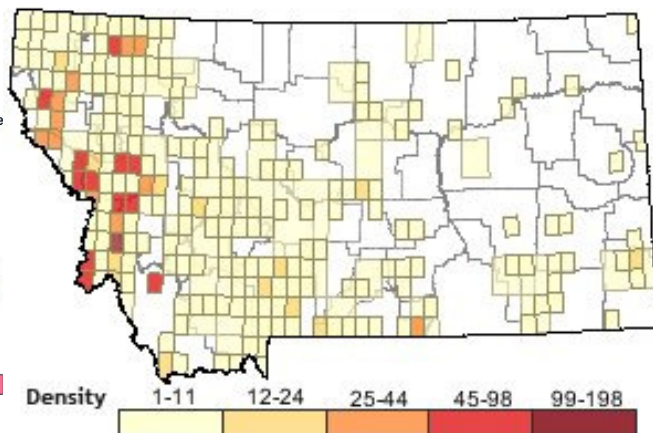
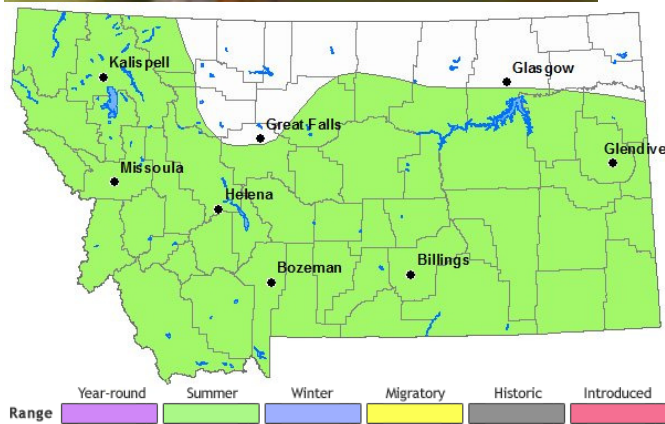
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# Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's) - *Setophaga coronata auduboni*



**Global Rank:** G5T5  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 3985

## General Description

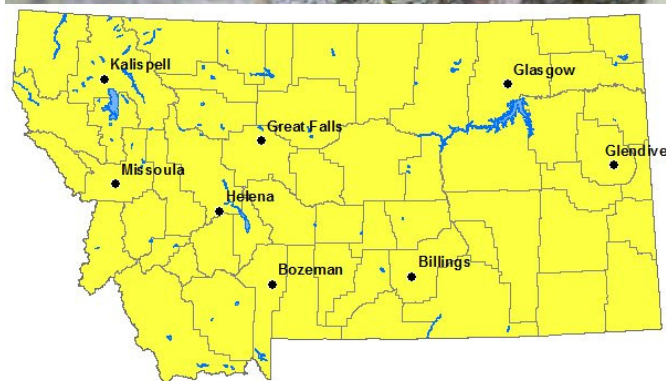
Now under Yellow-rumped Warbler at the species level. Observation records submitted under Audubon's Warbler are summarized below.

# Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) - *Setophaga coronata coronata*

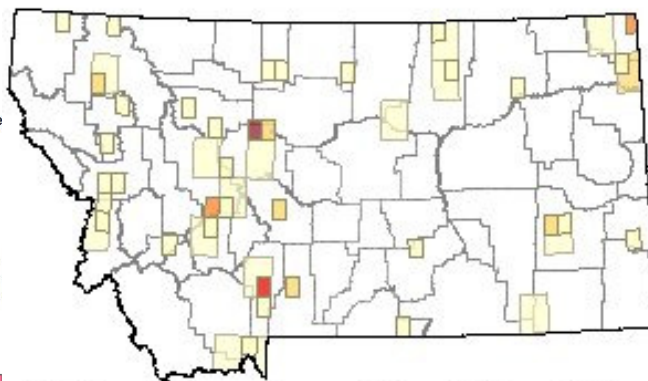


**Global Rank:** G5TU  
**State Rank:** S5B

**Agency Status**  
**USFWS:**  
**USFS:**  
**BLM:**



**Range** Year-round Summer Winter Migratory Historic Introduced



**Density** 1-2 3 4-5 6-10 11-39

**Number of Observations:** 124

## General Description

Now under Yellow-rumped Warbler at the species level. Observation records submitted under Myrtle Warbler are summarized below.

## Yellow-throated Vireo - *Vireo flavifrons*



**Accidental Species**

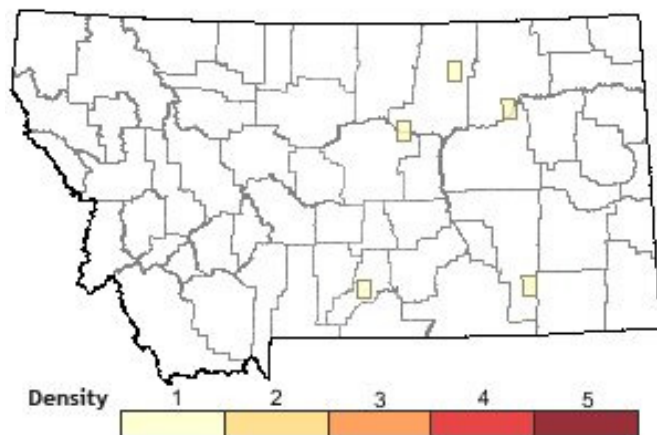
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations: 5**

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# Yellow-throated Warbler - *Setophaga dominica*



**Accidental Species**

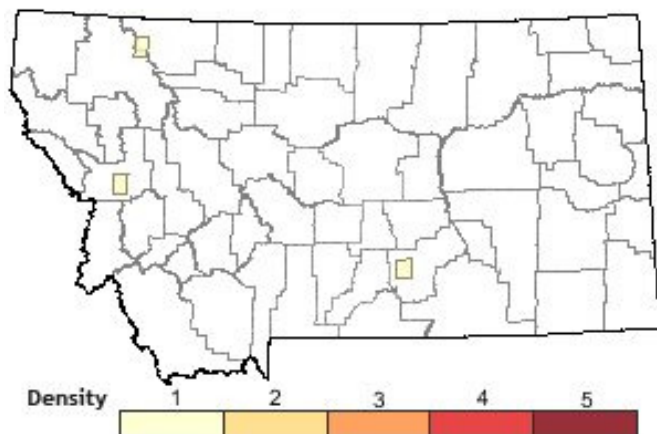
**Global Rank:** G5  
**State Rank:** SNA

**Agency Status**

**USFWS:**

**USFS:**

**BLM:**



**Number of Observations:** 4

## General Description

A warbler with a yellow throat and upper breast, white or pale yellow belly with black streaks on the sides, plain gray back, two white wing bars, a large white patch on each side of the neck (behind the mostly black face), a white eyebrow line, white or yellow supraloral area, black/gray crown (more black in male), and a dark tail.